



Gorbachov speaks of his anguish after touring the stricken region

78 killed as quake rescue plane crashes

Soldiers die in mystery collision with helicopter

- The rescue operation for Armenian earthquake victims received a severe blow when a plane carrying troops crashed at Yerevan, killing 78 people
- President Gorbachov vehemently criticized nationalist agitators in the Caucasus for attempting to make political capital out of the disaster
- US experts blamed shoddy Soviet buildings for the high toll and said such a quake in California would have killed only about 1,000 people (Page 7)
- The Soviet Embassy in London issued an urgent appeal for medical equipment as Armenians in Britain held special church services (Page 20)

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

The all-out Soviet effort to rescue victims of Wednesday's earthquake and relieve the survivors was tragically interrupted yesterday when a military transport aircraft carrying 69 servicemen and nine crew collided with a helicopter and crashed, killing all on board.

The Ilyushin 76 was making its approach to the Armenian city of Leninakan, much of

which was destroyed in the earthquake. Meanwhile, President Gorbachov, in an unprecedented impromptu interview with Soviet journalists before leaving Armenia, spoke of his anguish at seeing the destruction caused by the earthquake and accused extreme nationalists in the southern republic and neighbouring Azerbaijan of using the disaster for their own political ends.

His remarks came at the end of a day when Interior Minister

Yeghiazar was in the town of Spitak, which was flattened, and Kirovakan, which was reported to have been almost completely destroyed. In Kirovakan, television film showed Mr Gorbachov answering angry questions from members of the crowd.

One shouted that he worked in a physics research institute and knew that it was possible to predict earthquakes, so asked why had this one not been predicted. Another questioned the quality of recent Soviet buildings.

WIN £44,000

Portfolio
PLUS
Accumulator

● Saturday's £8,000 weekly prize was shared between two winners (see page 3). The Portfolio Accumulator rises to £44,000. Prices: page 26

Leading Soviet and international musicians have offered their services for a special charity concert for victims of the earthquake. The concert, at the Barbican Centre in London on Saturday, has been arranged at the request of the Soviet Embassy. Yuri Bashmet, the violin soloist, is to be flown from Moscow to join a star cast including the Soviet émigré, Mstislav Rostropovich, under the baton of Andris Piebalgs.

Buildings blamed 7
Chairs and glass 7
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IN PART 2

CBI fears on pound

The Confederation of British Industry has given a warning that the trade deficit will not be reduced if sterling remains too strong, after a further drop in export order books.

In its latest industrial trends survey, the CBI suggests demand at home is buoyant in spite of the recent sharp rise in base rates. But export order books are at their weakest since April 1987. Page 21

Honours even

Liverpool and Everton drew 1-1 in the Merseyside football derby at Anfield yesterday when Clarke equalized from a penalty after Houghton had put Liverpool ahead. Enfield's interest in the FA Cup was ended by Cardiff City in the second round. Page 40

New masters

Rick Leach and Jim Fugh of the United States won the Nabisco Masters tennis tournament at the Albert Hall yesterday. Page 40

TIMES FOCUS

The challenges facing European telecommunications as the EEC moves towards a single market in 1992 are examined in a Special Report. Pages 27-31

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UDM members reject British Coal pay offer

The leadership of the Union of Democratic Mineworkers has suffered a humiliating rebuff after it was yesterday disclosed that its members had rejected a recommended revised pay offer from British Coal.

The decision took officials by surprise and led to the first threat of industrial action since the union broke from the National Union of Mine-workers three years ago.

A union spokesman said if the corporation did not improve its two-year pay deal,



President Gorbachov, in sombre mood, talking with anxious residents in the stricken Armenian town of Spitak yesterday.

Post Office threatens legal action

The Post Office yesterday warned the Union of Communication workers that it could face legal action if its members in the letters and parcels division disrupt Christmas mail by joining today's counters strike.

The union's 25,000 counter and clerical staff have been called out for 24 hours to protest at the Post Office's plan to regrade 250 Crown offices into small sub-offices.

Ministry plans advertising campaign to calm egg panic

Mr John MacGregor, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, is considering launching a nationwide advertising campaign to allay public fears over the health risks of eating eggs.

He is also taking action to tighten up enforcement of the present regulations to prevent the importation of contaminated food, and drawing up new guidelines on the hygienic production of animal foodstuffs.

Mr MacGregor, who flies back from Brussels this morning to make a Commons statement on the weekend Fisheries Council discussions, is pulling out all the stops in an attempt to repair the damage done by Mrs Edwina Currie, the Under-Secretary of State for Health, who said that most eggs were contaminated by salmonella.

Women's ordination

Bishop sees threat to Gospel

The Bishop of London, Dr Graham Leonard, who is leading a protest against women priests, today criticized those he says are trying to alter the Christian religion to suit feminism "and then say this what Christianity ought to be".

In an interview in *The Times*, he says: "This seems to me to undermine the whole basis of the Christian Gospel which is based on a moment in history of God's choosing."

His criticism came after more than 1,500 Church of England clergy, one in seven of those ordained, took the unusual step of signing a public register of protest.

Women's ordination

Bishop sees threat to Gospel

The register is significant, other liberal reformers. The register has been published to provide "solidarity" for priests feeling isolated by their stand against women and to provide traditionalists involved in church appointments with a list of "reliable men". It is headed by Dr Leonard.

Dr Leonard: "Christian Gospel is undermined."

Women's ordination

Bishop sees threat to Gospel

not for the names of familiar opponents of women priests, but for the inclusion of younger bishops who are expected to help shape the church of the future, such as the Bishop of Edmonton, the Right Rev Brian Masters, aged 56, and the Bishop of Fulham, the Right Rev Charles Klyberg, aged 57. It also includes the Queen's chaplain at Buckingham Palace, Canon Anthony Caesar.

Its publication has failed, however, to shake campaigners hoping to see the General Synod vote to allow women to be ordained in 1992. They insist that the majority of priests and church-goers support the change. A survey by *The Times* last month showed that only a quarter of regular worshippers is opposed to it.

Keeping watch for a celestial firework display

Amateur astronomers are preparing for what may be the most spectacular meteor shower seen in years.

They hope the annual Geminids shower, which reaches its peak this week, will produce a celestial fireworks display of up to 80 meteor trails an hour streaking across the sky.

However, some astronomers think the shower may prelude a far more disturbing event: a close celestial encounter with a gigantic chunk of space debris.

The Geminids shower, which appears to radiate from close to the bright star Castor in the constellation Gemini, is a regular feature in the astronomical calendar, marking the

Keeping watch for a celestial firework display

passage of Earth through a debris-strewn part of space.

However, Mr John Mason, assistant director of the British Astronomical Association's meteor section, says theories on the origin of the shower have provoked some controversy.

Weather report 20

The Geminids belong to a number of showers that put in an appearance every year in different parts of the sky.

By working out the path along which meteors race towards Earth, scientists have found that most showers can be associated with comets orbiting our solar system.

As they move in towards the sun, the comets leave a trail of debris in

Keeping watch for a celestial firework display

their wake, into which Earth plunges afterwards. The debris burns up in our atmosphere to produce the showers. The Geminids appear to have a completely different - and threatening - origin, however.

Calculations by British astronomers have shown a close link between the Geminids and a three mile-wide asteroid that orbits the sun on a wildly eccentric path, taking it beyond Mars and closer to the sun than Mercury.

Called Phaethon, the asteroid appears to be throwing off debris as it orbits, for reasons that remain unclear. However, it is known that Jupiter is distorting the orbit, with the effect that the asteroid is closing in on Earth.

Dr Ken Fox and Dr Iwan Williams,

Keeping watch for a celestial firework display

of Queen Mary College, London, have calculated by computer that Phaethon will pass very close to us.

Describing their conclusions in the latest issue of *New Scientist*, Mr Mason says, however, that a collision is "unlikely", and in any case will not occur for another 250 years.

"Whatever happens in the future, there is no doubt that we are lucky to be witnessing a fascinating epoch in the evolution of the Geminid meteors and their unusual parent-body."

Even casual observers of the southeastern night sky around midnight tonight, tomorrow and Wednesday will be unlucky not to see some Geminids. Only that traditional base of the British astronomer, the weather, looks likely to spoil the occasion.

Thatcher writes a tribute to Reagan

From Michael Binyon
Washington

Mrs Thatcher, in a glowing valedictory assessment, today pays tribute to President Reagan who, she says, has restored the West's strength, and pride and sent the political message, heard even in Moscow, that freedom works.

"When we attempt an overall survey of President Reagan's term of office, covering events both foreign and domestic, one thing stands out," she says. "It is that he has achieved the most difficult of all political tasks: changing attitudes and perceptions about what is possible."

"From the strong fortress of his convictions, he set out to enlarge freedom the world over at a time when freedom was in retreat - and he succeeded."

Writing in *The National Review*, the leading American conservative journal, Mrs Thatcher says she is only the third British Prime Minister to hold office all through an American president's two consecutive terms. The first was Pitt the Younger, with George Washington, the second Lord Liverpool, Prime Minister while James Monroe was in office.

Her tenure thus gives her a historically privileged vantage point to survey the "remarkable" presidency of Mr Reagan, she says, adding that his first great achievement was in ridding his country of pessimism, restoring the American dream by infusing into the American people his own belief in America's economic future.

"That was farsighted. It carried America through the difficult early days of the 1981-82 recession, because people are prepared to put up with sacrifices if they know that those sacrifices are the foundations of future prosperity."

The success of his economic policies had an international impact, encouraging the West to co-operate to achieve low inflation, steady growth and open markets. This kept protectionism in check and the world economy growing.

"They are policies which offer not just an economic message, but a political one: Freedom works. It brings growth, opportunity and prosperity in its train."

And, with a touch of nostalgia in comparing her own political struggle with his, Mrs Thatcher notes that Mr Reagan stuck to his beliefs through thick and thin. "I still recall those dark early days of this decade when both our countries were grappling with the twin disasters of inflation and recession and when some

Even before the earthquake, the Armenians were a minority.

Overnight, the population of this tiny republic has been reduced by at least 80,000.

Even more lie injured.

The death toll is certain to rise.

Your money is needed now to provide medical supplies and shelter for those who survive.

Send all you can to: The Armenian Earthquake Appeal, British Red Cross, PO Box 121, London SW1X 7EJ.

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RED CROSS

NEWS ROUNDUP

SOS pilot lands on mountainside

An amateur pilot saved his life and that of his three passengers yesterday when he landed a Piper Cherokee aircraft on a sloping mountainside near Conwy in North Wales.

Mr Brian Gaunt, aged 52, a businessman, of Clifton Drive North, St Anne's, near Blackpool, was on his way from Blackpool to Anglesey when the plane lost power.

After putting out a mayday call he saw an area of mountainside on which he could land away from some rocks, and brought the plane down safely. His passengers, all from Canada, praised Mr Gaunt's skill. They are Miss Lyse Fredette, aged 40, Mr James Mannion, aged 54, and Mr Gill Baker, aged 45.

Mr Gaunt, who returned to Lancashire by road last night, said: "I kept raising the nose of the plane. I suppose when we touched the ground we were about to stall. I managed to land uphill in a sort of belly flop."

Ring of friends

People who live in the North-east, Wales and the West of England call more friends more often on the telephone than those living in the Midlands and the South, according to a British Telecom survey published today. Londoners make more international calls to chat with friends and relatives and call more people to congratulate or sympathize with them. Twice as many people living in London, Wales and the West will make a "thank you" call after dinner than people in the North-west and the Midlands.

Coastguard closure

The full-time coastguard station at Ramsey on the Isle of Man is to close early in the new year after guarding the seas around the island for more than a century. Eight watchkeepers will be redeployed, with all rescue and emergency services in the 4,000 square miles of the Irish Sea concentrated on Liverpool as part of a reorganization geared to save money. Mr Jim Ferguson, station officer on the Isle of Man, said volunteer auxiliaries would remain on the island.

Murder case remand

Mary Anne Parker, aged 21, of no fixed address, was remanded in custody until Friday when she appeared before Hemel Hempstead magistrates on Saturday, charged with the murder of Mrs Joan Macan, a dog breeder. Mrs Macan died on her eighty-first birthday on May 6 at her secluded cottage at Ashridge Park, near Tring in Hertfordshire. She had been hit on the head with a sharp weapon.

Plea to church-goers

Church-goers give an average of £2.19 a week towards the cost of maintaining the Church of England, now running at more than £1 million a day, the Church Commissioners say in a report being sent to every parish. Donations are up by 41 per cent since 1983, but the figure still represents only 2 per cent of members' disposable income and the commissioners urge a rise to 5 per cent or £4 a week. Giving is highest in Southwark, south London, at £2.50 a week and lowest in Truro, Cornwall, at £1.15.

Bank raid charges

Three men are to appear in court today in Liverpool on charges connected with the £500,000 NatWest bank robbery at Preston, Lancashire, three months ago. They were arrested when detectives swooped on addresses in the Liverpool area hours after a renewed appeal for information was broadcast on the *Crimewatch* television programme.

Export of heritage works slowing down

By Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market Correspondent

Demand for licences to export art from the United Kingdom abated sharply during the last year as improvements in the economy and lower taxation encouraged the British to invest in their heritage, according to a report published yesterday.

The Reviewing Committee for the Export of Works of Art, which is responsible for issuing export stops, says the dramatic drop in the flow of applications in the 12 months to June 30, 1988, could be the result of a strong pound.

It also believes "owners are delaying sales in a continually rising art market", although there are still fears that the Mappa Mundi from Hereford Cathedral may be auctioned at

Sotheby's and exported. Compared with the previous 12 months, the number of applications for export licences rose by 500 to 6,550 during the period, but the total value of art exported went up by only £3 million, to £373 million.

Important works saved during the period of the report include the purchase by the British Library of the Clifford Papers, valued at £317,775 and regarded by the committee as "probably the most important historical archive ever to have come before us"; the George II "Kirkleatham" silver centrepiece, designed by David Willaume the Younger (£750,000) and Poussin's "The Finding of Moses", a painting valued at £7.2 million and now shared by the National Gallery and the National Museum of Wales.

Works lost to the nation included a significant part of the John Rylands Library from Manchester University, and drawings from Chatsworth House, in Derbyshire.

The report says: "There is little doubt that the process of dispersal of the Chatsworth drawings, most of them to overseas buyers, is one of the greatest artistic losses to this country this century."

The committee, which is chaired by Mr Jonathan Scott and includes Mr Gervase Jackson-Stops and Professor Ralph Davis, makes two new recommendations. The first concerns the safeguarding of objects whose merit stems from their existence as collections. The Rylands Library came within that category, as did the George Brown collection of ethnographic works, dispersed three years

ago by Newcastle University. The committee recommends that new criteria be used to identify collections and that owners should be required to give six months' notification of intention to sell, "embodied in statutory form".

Secondly, the report criticizes the "indefinite stop procedure", whereby the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry has the right to grant export licences, even when the committee has recommended an indefinite stop. The department is considering the matter but the committee is disturbed by "the apparent lack of progress".

Rumours that the European Commission is considering unifying heritage export controls shortly were denied by a spokesman in Brussels yesterday.

Sale room, page 5

Political ambitions tied up in electricity Bill

Parkinson faces biggest hurdle

By Nicholas Wood
and Robert Mathews

Mr Cecil Parkinson will today seek to reassure the public and his own backbenchers that the £20 billion sale of the electricity industry will not force up prices as he tackles one of the biggest hurdles in his political rehabilitation.

The Secretary of State for Energy will endeavour to scotch the Opposition's accusations that the Government is generating "a mass of muddle" over its plans for a "nuclear tax", as controversy continues over the impact of the Bill privatizing the industry.

However, Mr Tony Blair, Labour's chief energy spokesman, will be able to draw on an independent report from Sussex University predicting that electricity bills could rise by up to £40 a year as a result of the Government's continuing commitment to the nuclear programme after the privatization.

Conservative MPs, who are already tipping Mr Parkinson as a successor to Mr Nigel Lawson at the Treasury, will be closely watching his performance in the second reading debate on the electricity Bill in the Commons.

If he succeeds in deflecting the challenge from Mr Blair, one of Labour's rising stars, he will have taken another significant stride on his way back to the top.

Yesterday, Mr Blair seized on a newspaper report that the Government had decided to postpone the tax or levy on customers' bills to pay for the next generation of nuclear power stations as evidence of the "shambles" within the

Department of Energy. However, the department maintained that Labour's claims about the tax were based on misunderstandings about the planned legislation and that nothing had changed since the

Bill was published earlier this month.

Mr Michael Spicer, Under Secretary of State at the Department of Energy, said the nuclear tax was a figment of Mr Blair's imagination and



Mr Andrew Simms (left), the Green Party candidate in the Epping Forest by-election, is confident the forest itself will play an important part in deciding Thursday's outcome. "People are now environmentally aware", he said. "Epping has one of the last great forests left in England and is under daily threat from the traffic which thunders along the M11 and M25. Some farmers with land bordering the motorways have ceased production of food for

human consumption because of the levels of lead. The Green Party will fight for a bill to require compulsory detoxification of coal-burning power stations. We're looking for a vote of confidence in the stance we are taking."

The west Essex by-election follows the death of the Conservative MP, Sir John Biggs-Davison, who held the seat for 33 years.

that it was outrageous of him to accuse ministers of changing their minds over something that he had invented.

A department spokesman said: "The levy will not be used to fund the construction of new power stations in advance. The customer has always paid for new power stations. National Power (the main generating company foreshadowed in the Bill) will raise the money to pay for the power stations on the basis of contracts which they will seek with the supply companies. Only when electricity begins to flow from these new power stations will any levy become payable on that power."

Mr Blair, who, at the age of 35, is the youngest member of the Shadow Cabinet, also faces a demanding test of his political skills in opposing a measure that lies at the heart of the Government's programme for the current parliamentary session.

Yesterday he sought to put ministers on the defensive by accusing them of changing tack. "First they admit the tax and seek to justify it, then they deny it exists at all, now they are back to admitting it but saying they are going to postpone it", he said.

"It really is scandalous when major questions as these are still being debated inside government the day before Parliament is expected to pass judgement on such an important piece of legislation."

Hidden costs of defence repairs

By Our Political Reporter

A parliamentary inquiry is to be conducted into the huge cost to the Ministry of Defence of maintaining unreliable equipment and into ways of reducing the bill.

The Commons defence select committee is to consider making defence equipment manufacturers contractually liable for excessive repair costs.

The MPs have decided to undertake the inquiry after learning earlier this year that maintaining modern military equipment can cost at least double its initial purchase price and is an enormous area of hidden expenditure.

The RAF's director of air engineering has said that unreliable equipment is costing it at least £500 million a year in support costs, impairing one in 10 missions and rendering between a third and a half of the frontline fast jet fleet unavailable at any one time.

The all-party committee said the situation was "extremely disturbing" and that the potential savings for a defence procurement budget of more than £8 billion a year were "extremely significant".

The MPs were alarmed to discover that the ministry had made no effort to measure the evidently enormous cost of maintaining equipment.

In its huge procurement executive there are only 23 specialists dedicated to "reliability and maintainability".

The MPs suspected that the ministry was paying only lip service to improving the reliability of equipment and that this might be a result of its desire to reduce "up front" spending on equipment regardless of costs to come later.

The committee will take the unusual step of calling the defence contractors to give evidence.

It will ask them why they should not be liable for the repair and maintenance costs of unreliable equipment.


The MPs, who have already sent the ministry a questionnaire to establish the reliability of many items of defence equipment and what it is doing to improve matters, will also summon ministry officials and ministers.

Briton and we a holiday

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70,000 to leave the South-east

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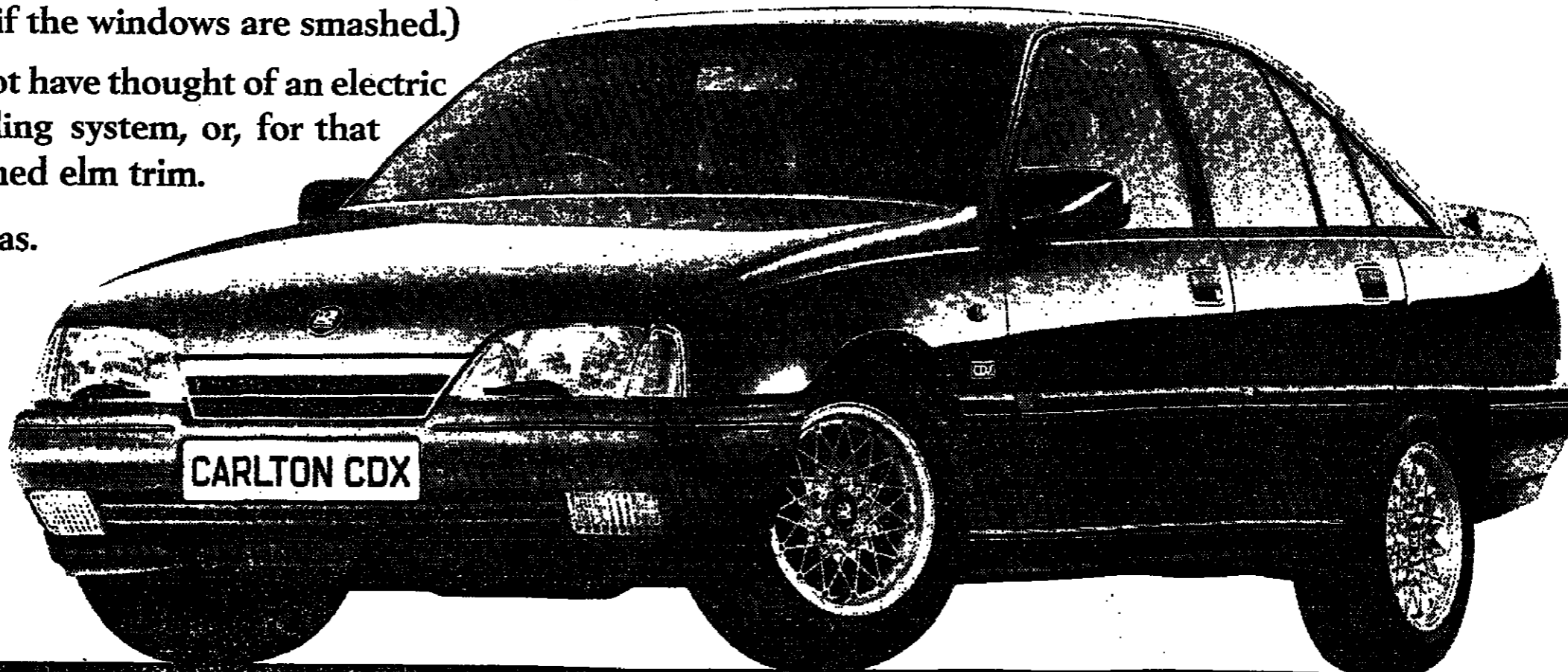
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Baker ready to fight scheme for holding back less able pupils

By David Tytler, Education Editor

Radical Tory school reforms approved in principle by Mrs Thatcher may run into difficulty with Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science. He is ready to use his powers under the Education Reform Act to block the more extreme changes and demand key modifications.

The reforms at issue involve the "holding back" of less able pupils and the advancement of brighter ones, assessment of children when they start school, and proposals to limit the size of schools.

Mr Baker is concerned that if he allows one high profile Conservative council to introduce radical changes he could face more controversial proposals from extremists on both left and right. He will look particularly carefully at proposals from the Conservative-controlled London borough of Wandsworth.

He will be most worried by Wandsworth's intention to judge children by their grades in the attainment tests which will be introduced in the national curriculum and not simply by age. Mr Baker has already irritated the Prime Minister by rejecting a similar national scheme.

Mr Donald Naismith, described as Mrs Thatcher's favourite education officer

and the first director of education at Wandsworth, said: "Children should be taught by their ability and not by age. The difficulty of children who cannot meet the Government's attainment test at seven, 11 and 16 will have to be squarely faced."

The problem for Mr Baker is this means some children will have to be held back for up to a year. Mr Naismith and his supporters say it is futile to move children on until they can show they understand the fundamentals.

Mr Baker will be concerned with the practical problems schools would face, the objections of angry parents and the damaging effect he believes it would have on the less able children which the curriculum is designed to help.

Wandsworth, which takes responsibility for education in its area in April 1990 after the Inner London Education Authority is abolished, prefers to stress the parallel effect of its scheme, which enables bright children to move ahead.

This has serious implications. Many bright children may lose a year of primary teaching and be a year ahead throughout secondary school. At present children under 16 cannot move on to further education but Wandsworth will seek to change the regula-

tions. Mr Baker also doubts the need to assess children as they enter school at the age of five, as proposed by Wandsworth. Many educationists believe very young children might be wrongly labelled as below average.

Wandsworth is also going to run into difficulties with the size of its schools. Mr Naismith favours schools of about 900 children but under open enrolment introduced in the Education Reform Act, head teachers will not be able to refuse entry to any child provided the total number of pupils in the school does not exceed the school roll in 1979, when figures were at their highest.

Draft plans have been published by all 13 of the new London education authorities and are causing concern because ministers consider them expensive.

The high costs may force Mr Baker to demand cuts. He has agreed to a first year budget of £1,000 million for 1990-91, reducing to £652 million for the following year. £90 million more than the current £562 allowance. He could use cost as a way of curbing the most controversial proposals by insisting on substantial savings which would force councils to abandon their more radical reforms.

Denning and Frost join valley protest

JULIAN HERBERT



Lord Denning, the former Master of the Rolls, and David Frost, the television broadcaster, joined protesters on a river bank yesterday in a battle against the bulldozers. They are patrons of a campaign to save part of the Test Valley in Hampshire, where they both live. Save Our Valley's Environment (Save) is fighting plans

to turn 44 acres of riverside land into a gravel extraction site.

David Frost, who lives about a mile from the proposed site south of the village of Dunbridge, claims it will ruin one of the most picturesque parts of the country. He said: "As one environmentalist said recently, 'No generation has a freehold on this

earth. All we have is a life tenancy with a fall repairing lease.' By any standards this proposal fails to meet that test."

Hampshire County Council has given its support to the scheme partly because the county is not self-sufficient in sand and gravel.

Lord Denning, who lives at

Whitechurch, said: "This plan will devastate the land. It will be dug up by giant machines and transported by endless conveyors along noisy roads. The need for gravel extraction can not justify the damage that will be caused to such a beautiful part of the country." A public inquiry starts in Romsey tomorrow into the proposal.

Ilea replies to school critics

By Our Education Editor

Mr Neil Fletcher, leader of the Inner London Education Authority, will today reply to accusations of poor management at the primary school where eight teachers are to be removed after a critical government report.

The eight women will leave Highbury Quadrant Primary School, in Islington, north London, at the end of term. Officials are talking to headteachers throughout London to find them jobs.

Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, instructed Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools to report on the school after two

teachers argued in front of pupils when one of them failed to attend an assembly in honour of Nelson Mandela.

The report, published last Friday, said that the children "are not receiving the standard of education they need and deserve".

Mr Malcolm Horne, president of the National Union of Teachers, said the union would support the teachers in their fight against "quite unforgivable attacks" from Ilea.

The teachers and union officials are considering legal action against the authority.

Mr Horne added: "The inspector's report makes it

clear that the deficiencies in the school are very largely due to top management. It is quite despicable of Ilea to be seeking to lay the blame on the teachers in this way. They have not been given any chance to answer what are vague charges."

Mr Fletcher will be further embarrassed by the revelation that at about the same time as Mr Baker called for the report, Ilea's chief schools' inspector, Mrs Barbara MacGilchrist wrote a letter of praise to Miss Margaret Morrison, then acting headteacher at the school.

Leading article, page 13

Thatcher rebuffed over charities' role

By Emma Wilkins and David Walker

The Home Office appears to have fended off efforts by Downing Street to get involved in the forthcoming revision of the law affecting charity.

A confidential Whitehall inter-departmental committee was established earlier this year, after Mrs Margaret Thatcher voiced concern about what she saw as the intervention of certain charitable bodies in politics. A list of suspected charities was drawn up, and the committee of officials told to examine how much government money was being given to charities and voluntary groups.

But the examination being conducted by this committee is still going on, and it will not report before Home Office officials complete their drafting of a White Paper which is to be published in

the new year. The White Paper will be confined to ways of strengthening the Charity Commission to combat fraud and abuse in the £10 billion-a-year charity world and not touch directly on the question of "radical" charities which get involved in politics.

It will not seek to change the way in which activities are accepted as charitable, something which Mrs Thatcher said needed attention.

The Prime Minister is understood to have asked officials for a list of the charities which receive public money after becoming alarmed at what she thought "political" statements by, among other bodies, the housing charity, Shelter.

However the Home Office brief for charity reform is sticking close to the

agenda set by Sir Philip Woodfield, the retired Civil Servant who carried out a scrutiny on the supervision of charities for it. Sir Philip recommended a stronger role for the Charity Commission, a better register of charities and tougher accounting standards.

Since he reported the Home Office has appointed a new chief of the commission. Mr Robin Guthrie, from outside the Civil Service. He has been allowed to expand the commission's staff and bring in accounting expertise.

In a BBC radio interview last week, Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, said he was looking for a new Charities Act to be passed during this Parliament. Mr Hurd said he preferred a gradual approach to defining which activities should be regarded as charitable.

Preserves save house

Pickle and jam have come to the rescue of Chatsworth, the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire's 175-room stately home in Derbyshire, which needs several million pounds spent on urgent repairs and renovation.

Sales of Chatsworth preserves and chutneys dreamed up by the duchess and her French chef, M Jean-Pierre Béraud, have become so successful that the business is shortly expected to achieve a turnover of £1 million a year. It will then make a small but significant contribution to the house's restoration, and to its annual running costs which now exceed £1 million.

£196,000 sideboard is bought by actress

Barbra Streisand, the actress, became the owner of the most expensive piece of American arts and crafts furniture in New York last weekend when, bidding on the telephone from California, she paid \$63,000 (£196,000) for an oak and wrought-iron sideboard by Gustav Stickley.

The American counterpart to William Morris, Stickley had produced the sideboard for his own home in New York around 1903.

Miss Streisand also paid £11,900 (twenty times estimate) on a diminutive one-drawer gate-leg table by Stickley's firm and £16,600 and £14,000 respectively for architectural drawings by Frank Lloyd Wright.

Also at Christie's New York, a rare table lamp by the firm of Emile Galle doubled its estimate at £130,000, selling to a Japanese buyer.

It was decorated with crimson peonies enhanced by the ambitious "triple overlay" technique, giving them added appearance of depth on their yellow ground.

Negotiations between Christie's and York City Council for the private treaty sale of the oldest architectural arc-

SALE ROOM
by Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market Correspondent

Ministers favour Sunday sport Bill

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

Government ministers are understood to be "highly sympathetic" to a private member's Bill to allow horse racing and other professional sports on Sundays.

Mr Andrew MacKay, Conservative MP for Berkshire East, has had informal talks with both Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, and Mr John Patten, the Home Office Minister, in the past few days.

Yesterday he said he was optimistic of gaining government support for the Sunday Sports Bill which he intends to introduce in the Commons after coming fourth in the recent private member's Bill ballot.

Mr MacKay has decided to modify previous unsuccessful Sunday sports Bills in two important respects in an attempt to allay the fears of his opponents. His Bill will seek to meet the objections of the trade unions by forbidding the dismissal of anybody who refuses to work on a Sunday.

Because betting shops would have to open, his Bill will limit to seven or slightly more the number of Sundays a year on which racing would be permitted.

Mr MacKay is seeking

meetings with the Transport and General Workers' Union, whose members would be affected, and with the Church of England's Council for Social Responsibility.

He wants to hold the widest possible consultations with concerned parties before the Bill's second reading.

To have government support is important not just because it means the so-called "pay role vote" of many private secretaries will not be mobilized against the Bill but because ministers on whose support Mr MacKay depends will be free to vote for him.

Ministers favour the Bill not only because it is deregulatory. It would legitimize a number of professional sports including cricket and football which already take place on Sundays. The Government does not believe it is right or healthy that the law should be so openly flouted.

Two similar Bills were defeated on procedural grounds during the last parliamentary session. Mr MacKay's Bill is guaranteed a second reading vote by virtue of its high place in the ballot.

WHITEHALL BRIEF by David Walker

Quangos open up to public scrutiny

That invaluable guide to the undergrowth of government, *Public Bodies 1988*, reported last week that the quangos are breeding again. Now, after the great call that took place when Mrs Margaret Thatcher came to office, the number of "non-departmental public bodies" is growing.

In the year up until March 40 were slaughtered but government being a promiscuous trade, about 45 were created. Thus the 1,648 listed still provide a rich crop, ranging from the Advisory Committee of Historic Wreck Sites to the Wireless Telegraphy Appeals Tribunal.

Too much can be made of the shadowy nature of this "quasi-government", but an event occurred last week that gave some reassurance that these bodies are not left entirely on their own to get on spending public money out of sight and hence out of mind.

It was the award made by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy which in collaboration with Arthur Andersen, the accountants and consultants, singles out the best annual report by a public body.

Financial accounts sounds dry territory, even if enlivened by the obligatory photograph of a personable young woman and grinning staff. But the institute's award was a reminder of how strong our administrative culture is in its insistence on public statements from

which proper conclusions can be drawn about an organization.

An award went, for example, to the Post Office for its *Report and Accounts 1987-88*. Not just pictures of stamps to delight the philatelists, or a colour close-up of the Royal Mail's London underground train to delight boys: there is also evidence here on which to judge Sir Bryan Nicholson, the Post Office chairman, and his staff.

The percentage of first-class letters ready for delivery by the next working day after collection ought, for example, to be 90 per cent. In 1987-88 it was just under 89 per cent, the highest for 10 years. Is that good work or underachievement? The point is that the figures are available for the public to make its judgement.

Holding Sir Bryan's feet to the fire at a House of Commons select committee or a public meeting is one way of making him account for his stewardship. Withholding the postman's Christmas gift is one way of making a protest.

In between, an obligation on both men to report could be a fruitful compromise: the mailman reports upwards on his work and Sir Bryan pulls the threads together to give us, the consuming and paying public, an explanation of the business.

The difficulty with the glossy books praised by the institute is not their

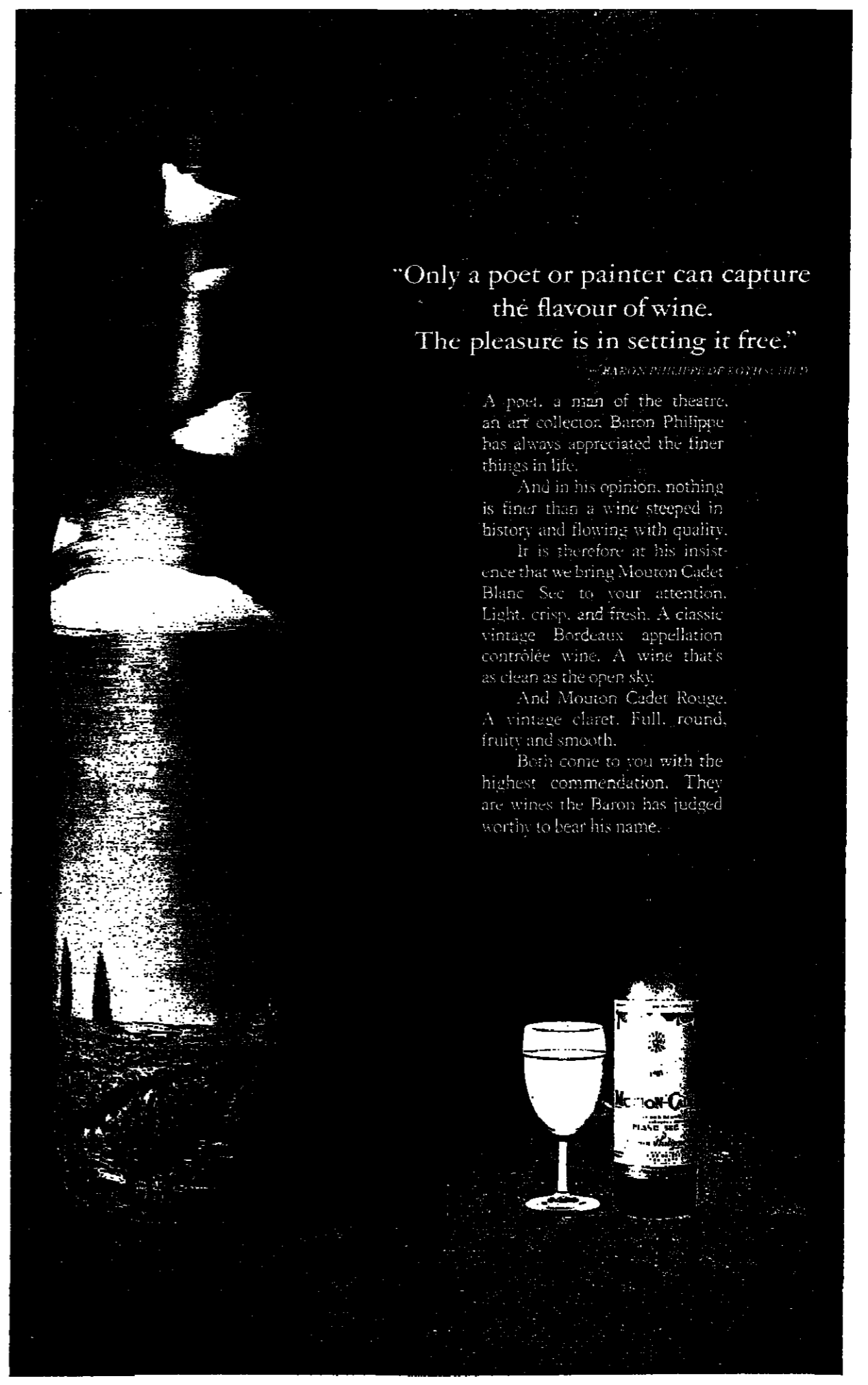
coverage - the British Railways Board gives a clear and, as far as a layman can judge, comprehensive account of its operations (it has some smashing pictures of trains, too).

No, the problem is how these financial reports sanitize public administration. They squeeze the politics out; the way decisions are taken (as they inevitably must) as a result of ministers' meetings, and MPs' constituency queries.

The driest of quangos in *Public Bodies* is a political organism, whether it is the Welsh Fourth Channel Authority or the Advisory Council on Race Relations. Is there a danger that the glossier the business reports and the more emphasis they put on strait-laced performance criteria the more the exercise of collective decision making by the public - democratic politics - is sidelined?

One booklet given an award, not for the first time, is Birmingham City Council's *Annual Report and Accounts*. The information is copious and lucidly presented but the smiling colour photograph of Mr Dick Knowles just does not fit. Mr Knowles is the Birmingham city boss: a politician, and a good one. What he does best happens in smoke-filled backrooms and that is a kind of performance these booklets will never capture.

Public Bodies 1988 (Stationery Office, £8).



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Legal groups in call for action over crisis of remand prisoners

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

A programme of action urging the Government to tackle the increased holding of remand prisoners in police cells has been put to Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary.

The proposals come from an alliance of solicitors, barristers, probation officers, senior court clerks and Crown Prosecution Service staff.

The programme includes the setting up of nationwide bail information schemes, so courts are provided with the maximum amount of information on defendants as quickly as possible; and a watchdog body to monitor conditions in police cells, informing judges, magistrates and the public.

The group, which is co-ordinated by the Law Society and includes the Criminal Bar Association, Justices' Clerks' Society, Crown Prosecution Service and — as observers because they have made their own approach — the Association of Chief Police Officers, is also calling for a working party to be set up.

The question of remand prisoners in police cells cannot, the group says, "be any longer addressed as a temporary problem" and swift action is needed to avert a "serious crisis".

The conditions in which most people are held in custody outside prison are "unacceptable" and many people may be acquitted or given a suspended sentence.

"For too long the Government has responded to its existence as a temporary feature in the criminal justice system; it has existed for five years or more and must be resolved."

Other proposals submitted to the Home Secretary are for increased funding for existing and new bail hostels; special accommodation to be provided, preferably in hospitals, for those requiring medical or mental treatment; and the guarantee of "basic rights" such as a suspect's right to make a telephone call.

People held in prison are covered by prison rules, which confer certain rights and privileges, but there is no comparable set of rules for those in police custody. Solicitors are particularly concerned that they should have both adequate access to prisoners and satisfactory conditions in

which to take instructions. ● Court accounting systems in more than 300 civil courts in England and Wales will become computerized today.

The new computer, to be officially switched on by Sir Derek Oulton, QC, Permanent Secretary to the Lord Chancellor's Department, will handle £10 million a week, making it one of the largest systems in Europe.

● Chief probation officers will today express their concern to the Home Secretary about the danger of giving "coercive powers" over individuals to profit-making organizations in privatized remand centres.

Probation chiefs say remand prisoners are people deprived against their will of existing rights of full adult citizenship. "This is an exercise of the ultimate power of the state over the individual."

"To hand over the exercise of that power from a state agency to a private organization has no precedent in recent British history."

The Association of Chief Officers of Probation (ACOP) is responding to a Green Paper on private-sector involvement in the remand system.

All set for a return to Downing Street



Off duty: Sir Alan Walters keeping fit with some early morning practice in the tennis courts of a leafy suburb of Washington before he resumes his role as the Downing Street adviser next summer to give words of wisdom on the British economy.

The time is 7am, the place is the neighbourhood tennis courts of Georgetown, Washington. Mrs Margaret Thatcher's economic guru is pursuing his favourite pastime. Professor Sir Alan Walters, aged 61, can be seen most weekends battling it out on the courts with his wife, Paddy.

"I get up about 5.30 every morning and go for a run — usually about two and a half to three miles, except weekends, when we play tennis if it is nice."

"Again, terribly early in the morning" said Sir Alan, as he prepared to go off to the local supermarket with his wife.

Sir Alan, who in the past has advised Mrs Thatcher on economic matters, is now winding down his job as economic adviser to the World Bank.

"I finish that job at the end of this year" he said after finishing his game. "I might be doing some other things for the bank if they are consistent with what I do at Downing Street."

Sir Alan first went to Washington in 1976 and was economic adviser to Downing Street between 1981 and 1983.

"I will be doing the same thing that I did before, that is advising the Prime Minister on things that I think are important on the economy."

Sir Alan is looking forward to a quiet Christmas and a chance to indulge in another of his favourite pastimes — cooking.

Report and photograph by Stephen Markeson

Motorway repairs

New evidence for spot breath tests

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

More evidence about the effectiveness of random breath testing in reducing the number of deaths and injuries in road accidents has been released by the Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety.

The council says that since the introduction of random breath tests in New South Wales, Australia, in December 1982, the average number of fatal crashes has dropped by 22 per cent.

In the four years after the introduction of random breath testing, the average number of alcohol-related fatal and serious accidents has been reduced by 35 per cent, and the average number of drivers and riders killed while over the legal limit dropped by 36 per cent over the same period.

Dr Murray Mackay, head of Birmingham University's accident research unit, said random breath testing in New South Wales had been a dramatic success.

Last summer the Association of Chief Police Officers called for the police to be given more discretion in the administration of breath tests.

Wales and West

M4 Gwent: contraflow eastbound jns 22-23 (Chepstow/Magor). M4 West Glamorgan: lane restrictions jns 46-45 (A4067/Swansea). M5 Devon: lane closure jn 31-30 (A30/Exeter). M5 Somerset: lane closures in both directions jns 21-26 (A370/A38).

M5 Gloucestershire: lane closures jns 12-14 (A38/B4509).

Scotland

M74 Strathclyde: contraflow south of jn 10. M8 Strathclyde: slip road closure jn 14 (Glasgow); lane restrictions jn 29 (Paisley). M8 Lothian: contraflow jn 3 (Livingston). M9 Central: lane closure jn 4 (Bannockburn). M90 Fife: lane closures jn 1 (A90).

London and South-east

M25 Surrey: contraflow jns 12-13 (M3/Staines); one lane closed in both directions at jn 11 (Chertsey) from 10am until 4pm. M11 Hertfordshire: slip road closures at jn 8 (Hemel Hempstead). M40 Buckinghamshire: lane closures jns 1-4 (A40/A404); single lane eastbound jns 4-5 (A404/A40) from 9.30am-1pm; contraflow jns 6-7 (Watlington/Thame).

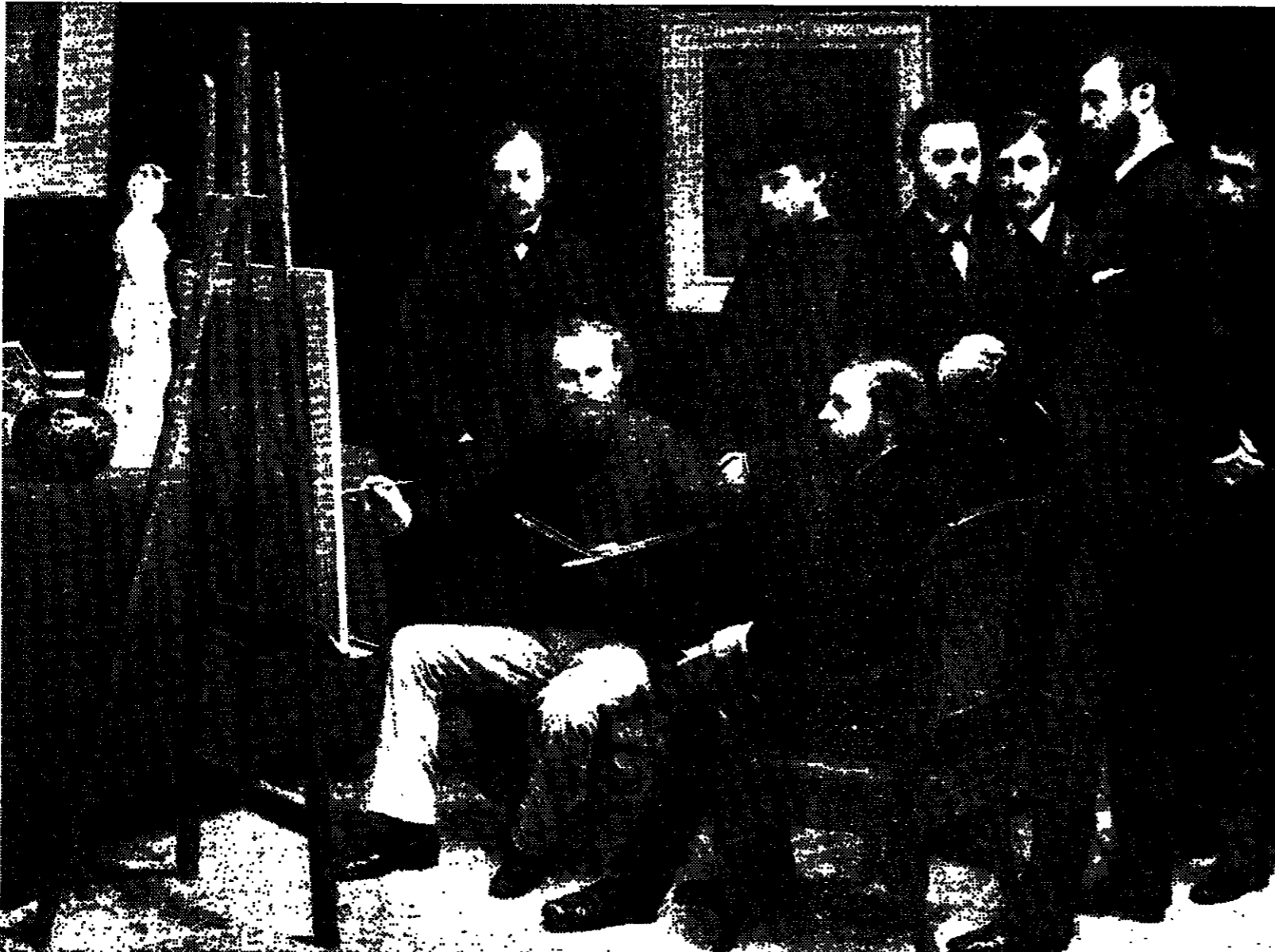
Midlands

M1 Northamptonshire: roadworks jn 15 (Northampton). M5 Hereford/Worcester: contraflow jns 4-3A (Bromsgrove/M42).

North

M63 Greater Manchester: two contraflows jns 1-6 (M62/A61-4). M62 Greater Manchester: contraflow jns 21-22 (A640/A672). M62 W Yorkshire: contraflow jns 24-25 (Huddersfield/A644). M62 Humberside: lane closures jns 38-36 (A63/York). M16 Cheshire: link and slip road closures at jn 20 (M56 and A30).

Information supplied by AA Roadwatch



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Arafat prepares for world spotlight at United Nations in Geneva

Israeli anxiety at PLO diplomatic coups

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

Israel is bracing itself to withstand increasing world pressure to negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Organization after Mr Yasser Arafat, the organization's chairman, makes a speech to the special session of the United Nations in Geneva tomorrow.

Three experts from Jerusalem are being flown to join Israel's delegation in Geneva and the text will be flashed back for analysis by government researchers to enable Mr Shimon Peres, the Foreign Minister, to respond quickly.

There is little expectation here that Mr Arafat can say anything capable of changing Israel's mind about the PLO. At the same time, there is growing concern at the considerable number of public relations gains made by the organization recently.

These include the fact that more than 50 countries have already recognized the independent Palestinian state declared by the Palestine National Council in Algiers last month. There has also been a broad welcome from the EEC summit, with Mrs Thatcher describing it as a positive step forward.

Worldwide sympathy for the Palestinian cause has also been aroused by demonstrations and speeches to mark the first anniversary of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

Mr Arafat's declaration in Stockholm last week, seeking to clarify the ambiguities of the PNC statements, was also well received.

Although Israel tried to condemn the statement as

"double talk", it paved the way for the meeting in London on Friday between Mr Basam Abu Sharif, a senior PLO spokesman, and Mr William Waldegrave, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, who became the first British minister to meet a PLO representative for five years.

He agreed to the meeting after accepting assurances that the PLO had unequivocally recognized Israel's right to exist, accepted relevant UN resolutions and renounced terrorism and violence. Mr Waldegrave said afterwards that this was "very helpful". Mr Yoav

Beirut (Reuters) — Israel has refused to comment on reports that booby-trapped dogs accompanied its forces in last Friday's raid on the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine General Command in Lebanon. Palestinian fighters claim that they shot dead "kamikaze dogs" fitted with explosives which had been trained to enter their bunkers.

Biran, the new Israeli Ambassador to London, described the meeting as "unhelpful".

There is even greater concern about the personal message Mr George Shultz, the American Secretary of State, is reported to have sent to Mr Arafat, promising contacts with the US Administration if the PLO leader explicitly meets the same three conditions in his Geneva speech.

Worry about American attitudes has deepened further after sharp criticism by Mr Shultz on Friday of Israel's

commando raid on a Palestinian base near Beirut. "I had thought by this time the Israelis would have learnt their lesson about putting troops well inside Lebanon," Mr Shultz said. "It didn't work before."

All these worries are exacerbated by the fact that Israel still has not succeeded in forming a new government, even though talks to form a broad coalition between Labour and Likud at last got underway yesterday.

Mr Yitzhak Shamir, who is confident of remaining Prime Minister, has set the tone for Israel's likely response to the Geneva speech. Acceptance of Israel's right to exist and of UN resolutions "are an exercise in deception", Mr Shamir said.

"It is yet another example of Arafat's capacity and of his tutors to emulate and even surpass the Goebbels propaganda techniques of the 'big lie'." He added: "We can't understand how some Western governments hail Arafat's lies on terrorism when his gangs continue to this day to mount hundreds of terror attacks on our people."

He said that once a government was formed he would invite all surrounding Arab countries to direct peace talks. The PLO would not be invited because "it still aims at the destruction of Israel."

Mr Peres is as sceptical as Mr Shamir of Mr Arafat's intentions. "The PLO has learnt, indeed it has always known how, to say one thing and do another," he said in a radio interview.



An Israeli border policeman guarding a weeping Palestinian girl arrested in east Jerusalem.

Perestroika and hijack create a new breed of hero

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

The hijack drama which ended in the return of four Soviet criminals from Israel two weeks ago has produced a new Soviet hero in General Tymuraz Butagov, who has been praised by Pravda in its hour-by-hour account of the drama, which began with a shooting incident in Ordzhonikidze, near Tashkent.

The party newspaper, hinting that the crime might have had a political aspect, said that its location — near the party committee and the republic procurator — gave it particular significance.

The general, deputy head of the ministry of internal affairs in the North Ossetia autonomous republic, was about to speak on the subject of combating crime when the report of the incident came in.

He went immediately to the scene with a colleague, where they found the leader of a violent gang holding up a bus, and threatening to shoot anyone who approached. Police then discovered that 31 children were being held hostage by

the gunman. General Butagov told the gang leader that he had full authority to begin negotiations, even though he had no time to consult anyone.

The general was given 40 minutes to consider the gang's demands of a ransom of \$1 million (£540,000) and one million roubles (£1 million), with safe passage to an airport. But he managed to keep up negotiations during a wild ride behind the bus, even offering himself as a hostage in place of the children.

Later the last of the children were saved, but Pravda singled out General Butagov for particular commendation because he had "at the most difficult moment" taken authority on himself, "and acted as you have to in war when there is no one to consult".

The general now has the status of a new-style hero who shows initiative, takes responsibility for his actions and puts human life first — all qualities Mr Gorbachev insists are necessary if Soviet society is to change.

Hirohito in coma

Tokyo (Reuters) — Emperor Hirohito of Japan was nearly comatose and doctors feared he was close to kidney failure yesterday after lying critically ill for 12 weeks. The monarch, aged 87, who collapsed on September 19, continued to bleed internally, doctors said. He made no response when doctors tried to talk to him, they added. Newspapers have reported that the Emperor suffers from inoperable cancer of the pancreas.

Front's regret

Rabat (Reuters) — The Marxist Polisario Front, which is fighting Morocco for independence in the Western Sahara, said its shooting down of a US aid aircraft last Thursday was a tragic accident which it deeply regretted.

Mining again

Port Moresby (AP) — Production at the huge Bougainville copper mine in Papua New Guinea has resumed after a week of arson and sabotage attacks by local landowners.

Body found

Milan (Reuters) — Italian police have found parts of a dismembered body thought to be Signor Gianfranco Trezzi, a Milanese industrialist, who was kidnapped more than three months ago.

Fiji warned

Suva (AP) — Brigadier Siveni Rabuka, leader of last year's two military coups in Fiji, has reiterated a warning that the Army is ready to seize power if the country does not approve a Constitution that would give ethnic Fijians dominance in Parliament.

Out on bail

Madrid — The world leader of the Scientologists and 10 top members of the sect, who face charges including coercion and embezzlement, were freed on bail of 125 million pesetas, more than £600,000.

Raid 'mistake'

Islamabad (Reuters) — Afghan authorities said 43 people were killed in what they called a mistaken air raid on the southern town of Kandahar.

Investigator says corruption is still rife in Queensland

From Christopher Morris Sydney

Mr Tony Fitzgerald, who has been conducting the Royal Commission into corruption in Queensland, last night began the mammoth task of sifting through 21,000 pages of evidence at the end of the inquiry.

After almost 18 months of investigating Australia's "Sunshine State" Mr Fitzgerald announced he had set himself a five-month deadline to complete his report on measures to clean up the corruption. This was revealed on a huge scale by 340 witnesses — including police-

men, prostitutes, alleged criminals, businessmen and politicians — who gave evidence after the inquiry opened last July 27.

Fittingly perhaps, the last person to testify was the man who investigated the inquiry, Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen, Queensland's premier for 19 years, under whose rule corruption flourished until he was forced to resign a year ago.

Mr Fitzgerald had to admit in the end that the inquiry had only "scratched the surface" of corruption.

He said in his final statement: "It is obvious that the commission has

not fulfilled its task of inquiring into all the matters which fall within its terms of reference and that it could never hope to do so.

"What has been discovered is that problems associated with the criminal justice system and official misconduct are not merely associated with individuals but are institutionalized and related to ethical attitudes which have become entrenched."

He added: "Because it is certain both that the misconduct has not stopped, and that much of what has already occurred has not been exposed, investigations must con-

tinue." Mr Fitzgerald also said that the vast majority of Queensland police had to decide whether they would continue to be "duped" into supporting officers who had betrayed them, or whether they would reap the benefits of "an honest and reputable force".

The inquiry has uncovered corruption throughout the Queensland police.

Senior state politicians have had to account publicly for the first time for their political dealings and private business arrangements.

Mr Don Lane, a former Transport Minister, admitted he cheated on his

tax returns and ministerial expenses and his political career seems ruined. More than half of Sir Joh's last Cabinet — 14 ministers altogether — may face further investigation into whether prosecutions should be brought against them by a special prosecutor soon to be appointed.

Sir Joh spent seven days in the witness box. Asked by Mr Robert Mulholland, QC, whether he accepted political responsibility for corruption in the state, he said: "No I do not." The barrister observed: "You might not want to, but you might have to."

SHE'S NOT IN ILLINOIS.



BUT SHE CAN STILL HAVE COFFEE WITH HER DAUGHTER.

"Hello darling."
"Mum! I was just thinking about you."
"That's nice. What are you up to?"
"Just having a coffee."
"Me too. Busy day?"
"Awful. Whatever the instructions say, fingerpaints and five-year-olds don't mix."
"Poor Sally! How was aerobics on Thursday, anyway?"
"Don't remind me."
"Not so good then?"
"Mum, I ache in places I didn't know I had..."

The rest of this conversation is strictly private.

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MONDAY PAGE

Mistress of the bizarre

Ever since the Rocky Horror

Show, Sue Blane's costumes have been fashion-setters, Jo Glanville reports. This week she is cooking some operatic human puddings

Few theatre designers can have had the experience of seeing the audience copy their creations. Sue Blane's costumes for The Rocky Horror Show became part of a Seventies cult...

Blane's latest designs, for the set and costumes of the English National Opera's production of Rimsky-Korsakov's magical Christmas Eve...

Opening at the Coliseum on Wednesday, Christmas Eve is an enchanting blend of fantasy and Russian folklore...

"I'm not a great one for naturalism," Blane says. "Unless it's part of the brief, I'm not interested in getting the right year or whether the hemlines are up or down..."

This was the approach that led David Pountney, producer of Christmas Eve, to choose Blane to design the opera...

At 38, Blane has worked on more than 70 operas, plays and films, including Peter Greenaway's The Draughtman's Contract...

Glyndebourne and Richard Eyre's Guys and Dolls and High Society. Yet her career began by chance.

"To be honest, I didn't know there was such a thing as theatre design. I overheard somebody talking about it at art school and thought it sounded interesting..."

Coming to London from Shropshire in 1968 to study at the Central School of Art and Design, she found herself an outsider. "I wasn't part of Swinging London..."

She says: "It is very exciting to go from something like an RSC show, that's entirely accented towards acting, to something as open and musically exciting as this..."

The music, she says, gives the first feeling for a piece. "Then you listen to it while you are working, but it sinks back behind the technical problems for an awfully long time..."

Christmas Eve is her second Russian opera with a fairy-tale theme this year. Her surreal, nightmarish costumes for Richard Jones's extraordinary production of The Love for Three Oranges...



Pudding clerk: Sue Blane with the some of the cast of Christmas Eve, at the Coliseum in London

different kind, verging on the grotesque - "there were no holds barred at all."

By contrast with her designs, Blane appears notably down to earth. She does not aim for the offbeat, nor does she recognize a recurring style in her designs...

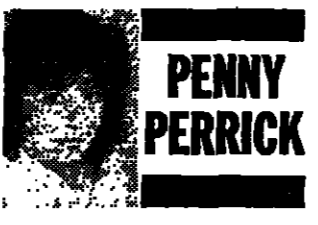
Lifting the veil on female oppression

When members of the Muslim Brotherhood, an Egyptian-based Islamic group, express views which echo those of British feminists, something very confusing is going on...

The machinations involved in this competition are of such complexity as to make the Spycatcher trial sound like an episode of The Archers. Let's see if I've got the hang of it...

Fast-forward to the 1980s and we find Egypt's Ministry of Tourism trying to prove that the country is in a far more tolerant league than hell-holes such as Iran...

An American television producer, Miss Marie Frances, is called in to organize the contest and immediately there is talk of bomb threats and rumours that the contestants will have acid thrown in their faces...



of terminal nervous exhaustion. Fast-forward again. Whoever is deemed to be "The Best Girl in Egypt" will be eligible to take part in the Miss World, Miss Universe and Miss Wonderland contests...

Women are in a mess because too many things are demanded of them

hosting this particular cattle-market, she is threatened not by veil-wearing Muslims bearing bottles of acid but by a bunch of cheerful-looking feminists wearing jeans, T-shirts and sneakers...

Do you see the confusion? Women are born free and are everywhere in a mess because too many things are demanded of them. My sympathy goes out to all concerned...

as she will have to go through the humiliating routine of being asked by some jerk in a blue mohair dinner jacket and frilly shirt what her hobbies are...

A woman's right to choose has narrower implications than her right to have an abortion. In a truly free country, she should have the right to weigh 12 stone and go around in a tracksuit without it casting doubts on her intelligence...

As things are, East is East and West is West and wherever you fetch up you must conform to the prevailing standards, or else. To give an example: one of my best friends looks her best in lots of red lipstick and outrage earrings...

Thinking about the implications of this is making me so tired that when Miss Frances books into the clinic for over-wrought executives, she will find me right behind her in the queue.

Slavery... the war that is never won

Britain's oldest but least known human rights group celebrated its 150th anniversary at the weekend. It remains obscure because the malpractice which gave it life was officially abolished throughout the Commonwealth early in Queen Victoria's reign...

As it approaches its 150th anniversary, the Anti-Slavery Society is busier than ever



Loom labour: Loom child carpet weaver

Yet the Anti-Slavery Society, founded on April 19, 1839 because the wider world was not taking any notice of the British Empire's legislature in Westminster...

The evidence of its informants, most notably in the Far East, is that children as young as three and a half are being pressed into bonded labour in conditions so abject as to make the distinction between their lot and conventional slavery a matter of semantics...

The society's co-ordinator, Alan Whittaker, is a practical and not quite despairing humanitarian with many years' experience in animal welfare. Having been taken on a grim canter through the abuses of large tea and carpet companies in India...

"In Uttar Pradesh," he begins, "and, ironically, around the holy city of Benares, there are about 100,000 small boys working, eating and sleeping in the loom sheds for just a few pence a week..."

napped or because their parents have been fooled into selling them in the belief that they will be sent some of the children's wages.

"In the tea plantations in regions such as Assam, the situation is worse."

The jobs, such as they are, go down in tribal families from one generation to the next, and so it is very difficult for them to appreciate that there is anything else outside the fence of the 'gardens', as they are called...

It seems odd that while the problem is so immense the Anti-Slavery Society is so small, with a membership of just 1,200 in 30 countries...

Whittaker concedes that it has been overtaken in the public consciousness by other human rights organizations, such as Amnesty International...

Amnesty International. Funded largely by money from Ford and Sainsbury, Whittaker works with a staff of four, in offices housed amid the venerable Dickensian wood panelling of a solid Brixton building which, in a previous incarnation, was occupied by Church of England rent collectors.

The society's clout is inevitably small and its principal device the politics of embarrassment. "Since the abuses which we highlight are forbidden through UN charter, international law and various conventions, it follows that they are illegal in all nations which are signatories to such agreements."

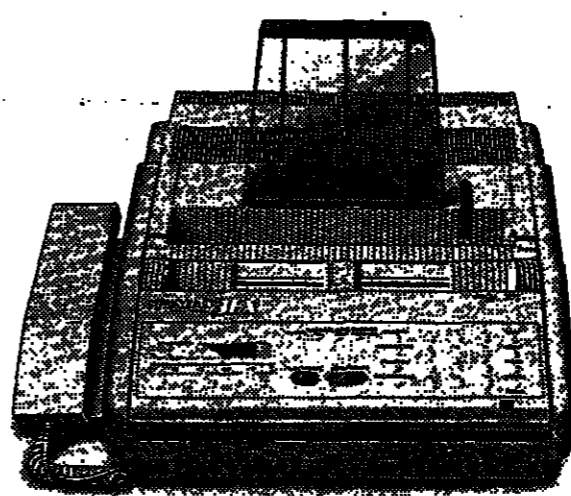
Therefore, in the minds of the bureaucrats, these things cannot be taking place, and since they are not taking place, it follows that there is no problem to be solved. Whittaker says.

But there is one other small matter which you may like to bear, since it concerns us all. It is the society's view that we are likely to connive in slavery every time we buy tea or carpets: that this is particularly true in big importing countries of both, such as Britain and the US; and that it is morally bankrupt to argue that if proper labour rates were paid, the economics of the industry could not stand it and the cuppa would become a middle-class luxury.

That proposition leads into a deep ocean of moral uncertainty in which the silence can cause permanent deafness.

Alan Franks

A Pattern of Slavery: India's Carpet Boys is published by the Anti-Slavery Society, 180 Brixton Road, London SW9, price £3.50.



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THE ARTS 1

TELEVISION

Powers of speech

Even those who call the time sometimes like to change theirs. Harold Pinter's Mountain Language (BBC2) was set in a no man's land of political oppression in which guards forbid prisoners in a militarized camp to speak their unadorned mountain language (presented as an accented English), only later to permit it. But a prisoner's mother who had been shouted out for mumbling a few words of her language cannot speak when she is allowed to use her own tongue.

This was a direct adaptation of the recent National Theatre production but this brief, spare collage of shocking images and appropriately Pinteresque dialogue is perhaps more suited for television than the stage.

The play may have been inspired by the plight of the Kurds but the few names and cultural references are English. Every country, with varying subtlety and intention, plays politics with language, giving some power to more dialects than others.

A more comic display of the relationship of power to speech was found in Brian Walden Interviews Princess Anne (ITV). Both interviewer and interviewee have changed their tunes over the years. The Princess Royal may not have quite lowered her tones to those of Lorraine Chase but the royal plum has been crossed with much less fruity strains.

She spoke with fluency, intelligence, some wit and much candour — she admitted she does not much like children. Her opinions seem to be to the left of Walden's but the power play of the interview was dominated by their relative social positions.

Andrew Hislop

Olivier Messiaen's 80th birthday was marked in London by a magnificent performance of his largest work

Many happy returns

OPERA

St François d'Assise Festival Hall

Despite the vast lesson in glorious humility that Messiaen's opera provides, we cannot but be proud that the most distinguished composer alive should have chosen to spend his 80th birthday in London, and that London should have been able to present him with such a magnificent performance of what is in every way his largest work. Its first production at the Paris Opera five years ago displayed its problems at least as much as its triumphs; here the latter were in the ascendant, partly because the stage movement was placed within, and sometimes overwhelmed by, the action of the orchestra.

Spreading over an enlarged platform, the 120 or so musicians were a sea of instruments around the cruciform acting platform, this set at an angle so that banks of bells and other percussion played around the "head" end of the cross shape at the rear left, with violins at the front left and a great wedge at the right for the rest of the orchestra.

The oddities of Messiaen's scoring — the huge wind ensemble with such rarities as contrabass clarinet and big bass tuba, and the three electronic ondes martenot as well as all the percussion — were thus clearly on view, as was the work's important relation to Chronochrome as a gigantic stained-glass window of stylized birdsong.

Of course there were some patchy moments in a performance that lasted for five hours with two short intervals (the strings became dangerously ragged at one difficult point in the second act), but there was an awful lot that came out blazingly right from the London Philharmonic Orchestra under Kent Nagano's dynamic, authoritative and confident direction. The woodwind and percussion, who have so much of the swirling, rattling birdsong, were full of spirit, and the weird



Conductor and composer: Kent Nagano (left) with Messiaen acknowledging the applause

noises of the ondes martenot were offered without apology.

Splendid too was the singing of the London Philharmonic Choir, whether in staccato incantations, ominous grey brush-strokes or resplendent chorales, the very end of the work being carried to a dazzling pitch of intensity and volume. Their contribution was helped by the screening, which gave them a strong audible presence while keeping them visually

in the shadows; the words of Christ thus came appropriately from the unseen, and attention was held on the instrumentalists and solo singers.

Among the latter, David Wilson-Johnson sang with unfailing nobility and ease as the saint. Given the length of the part, and the frequency of musical repetition that must make it hard to remember where one is, he could be forgiven for singing most of the first

two acts from the book, though his added power in the last act gave some hint of what we had been missing.

Maria Oran was the Angel, sounding aptly clear and bright like a stroked glass, and Kenneth Riegel repeated his sympathetic Leper from the Paris production, grazed and warped with hurt, then bravely simple in his joy. There was also simple, beautiful and eloquent singing from John Graham Hall as Brother Masseo and Nicholas Isherwood as Brother Leo.

The essential problems of the piece have to do with its disconcerting range of tone. In his music for the Angel's entries, as in his wildly furthest extensions of birdsong, Messiaen represents the gift of grace as a shock, shaking the senses, and yet his images of grace itself are often sweetly pious in the stigmata scene, for instance, the climactic prolongation of the Angel's summons, here done wonderfully as a kind of unstoppable bark for chorus and orchestra, immediately gives way to soft calls of "François" halloed by ondes martenot.

Perhaps a universal spirituality has to have a place for Lourdes as well as Chartres, Lhasa, Bali and Nara, but this does present difficulties in the staging. Michael Rennison's production boldly presented both aspects at once: the ritualized, flamboyant and unpredictable in the hint of kabuki in Mark Wheeler's set, and the religious in the gentle tread of the monks and the awful Fra Angelico costume Messiaen requires for the Angel.

Climactic moments were variable: Francis's embrace of the Leper surely requires a little more than hands placed on shoulders, but the granting of the stigmata, to a saint clasping himself onto a large bare cross, was powerfully done.

It still seems possible, though, that something more wholly formalized — perhaps with masks, brilliantly coloured costumes and stiff, vivid gestures — would find the right dramatic echo to this thoroughly extraordinary work, a work which, though so far from the temper of the time, was cheered and cheered on this occasion.

Paul Griffiths

ROCK

Not too tough

Bon Jovi Wembley Arena

On the second night of Bon Jovi's stint at Wembley, during a particularly energetic runabout in "Wanted Dead or Alive", the guitarist Richie Sambora ran smack into a lighting truss, sustaining a severe head wound which later required 10 stitches. It was an unhappy end to a brilliant show.

Practically from the moment the five young bucks from New Jersey leapt aboard the huge, brightly lit stage, it was apparent that they had brought with them a combination of highly developed stagecraft, deft songwriting ability and a level of commitment to the idea of entertaining an audience that is rarely found in the comparatively pained and dour milieu of heavy rock. In the third row from the front we were surprisingly never overpowered or bludgeoned by the level of volume and overall intensity of the attack.

Like their music, the boys in the band looked simultaneously tough and pretty. Lots of carefully battered denim clung to sleek bodies with long hair cascading over a uniform of sleeveless tees and tattooed shoulders. Every dramatic primace of effort was balanced by a friendly smile of enjoyment. The neatest trick was when Jon Bon Jovi was hoisted above the heads of the audience to a mini-stage erected in the middle of the arena, from where he sang the ballad "I'll Be There For You".

Such shameless grandstanding was underpinned by the musical instincts of a road-toughened rock band: Sambora's speedily efficient guitar solos lacked originality, but his harmony singing was a magnificent foil to Jon Jovi's high, powerful voice, particularly on the Springsteen-tinged "Born To Be My Baby". Romantic, gang-ho stories of youthful camaraderie such as "Blood on Blood" and "Livin' on a Prayer" were performed with a nimble touch and a generosity of spirit which dispelled qualms about their lack of depth.

John Percival

David Sinclair

Blended black

DANCE

Irie! The Place

Adzido Sadler's Wells

About half the dancers of Adzido Pan African Dance Ensemble, who appeared at Sadler's Wells last week, are British born, as I think are all the dancers of Irie! Dance Company who were at The Place. So, although they are all black, the African and Jamaican traditions which form the basis of their productions are assumed.

I much enjoyed the way Beverley Glean, director of Irie!, and her librettist Edgar White had adapted the Orpheus story to Caribbean society and rituals, even though that meant spending a good half of the action showing us how Orfeo, called back from his city business to village life on his father's death, met, wooed and lost Eunace, the Eurydice figure.

Hughie Donegan and Eusebia Saffren lead a skilled and committed cast of eight who double as office staff, villagers, and African gods. The narrative style is direct; the movement combines traditional elements with ballet and modern dance. In some anarchic moments it becomes vividly expressive, especially when involving Orfeo's uncle Jube (Albie Ollivierre).

The reggae music by Mike Charles Rose and Cosmo Ben Imhotep gives more rhythmic than emotional support. Karen Martin's designs provide an apt series of locations from a few adaptable objects, with striking and deceptively lavish looking scenes in the underworld. Irie! repeat the show this week at the Albany Empire, Deptford.

Adzido's Coming Home also began with a city dweller returning to his family, this time a chief's son going back to Ghana presumably after being educated in Britain. His fancy ways disrupt his brother's initiation into manhood; to atone, he is sent travelling all round Africa to learn traditional ways.

This enables the director George Dzikuano to introduce

dances of Nigeria, Dahomey, South Africa and Uganda as well as his native Ghana. The result is varied and lively.

Curious to have different costumes for each scene but only one setting of huts and trees to serve for so many places, and it seems odd that the men and women so rarely dance together. The vitality, versatility and energy of the 22 dancers (some of whom sing) and eight drummers sustain the interest throughout.

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THE ARTS 2

Joan evoked

RADIO

Ninety minutes of dialogue for three women's voices, most of it consisting of a conversation between Joan of Arc and an elderly nun, is not in prospect the kind of thing to fix the attention, but The Mystery of the Charity of Joan of Arc (Radio 3, Friday, director A.J. Quinn) held mine all the way. Charles Fey's play, translated by Jeffrey Wright from a considerably shortened and adapted French text, was the second production in the current short season of "French Drama of the 20th Century." Written in 1910, it might in many ways have been speaking of today.

Joan, aged 13, and with all the uncompromising ardour of her years, surveys what she can see from Domrémy of the chaos and savagery of the Hundred Years War. The sight appals her. Is this God's will on earth? In a lengthy and increasingly highly-charged exchange with Madame Gervaise, the nun, she tries to understand what she sees and to discover her own part in it.

To do nothing to resist the English seems to her like a re-enactment of the denial of Christ and "we would not have let that happen", she cries with a conviction that the aged nun finds not far short of pride. Yet, in the end, such is this girl's spirit that Madame Gervaise is driven back on the defence of "what do we really know of God's will?"

And it is not from her that Joan at last discovers her way, but from the news that the knights of Mont Saint-Michel with prayer and the sword have broken out of their fortress and scattered the encircling English. So she is set on the path to triumph and martyrdom, which, to judge by this account of her, she would probably have found entirely fitting.

Harriet Walter, as Joan; Tilly Vosburgh as her friend Hauviette, and Patricia Routledge as Madame Gervaise sustained a demanding text

superbly well, while A.J. Quinn's direction beautifully evoked a small island of bucolic peace of long ago.

Fish, I was amazed to learn, can be seasick. Conveyed in tanks by ship, all that pitching and tossing makes them fetch up as surely and as messily as any luckless Channel crosser.

Typically, this trivial bit of information is what first bobs up to the surface of the mind from South of Sixty (Radio 4, Wednesdays: producer, Daniel Snowman), a four-part report by Bernard Jackson on a visit to Antarctica and the members of the British Antarctic Survey. But, of course, such items also trigger memories of what will no doubt turn out to have been a flood preparation for the history of comment to be anticipated as the Antarctic Treaty comes up for renegotiation in 1991.

What do all those scientists do during their long isolation on the bottom of the world, and what use is it? The programmes have added considerably to the one thing most of us already know: they discover holes in the ozone layer. In fact, among its other virtues, this week's final programme gives an admirably crisp and comprehensible account of how the hole occurred and why it matters. For example, people going out of doors on a cloudy day when the layer was at its thinnest suffered sunburn. There is also an equally economical and trenchant sequence on the greenhouse effect and the urgency of the need to prevent the planet heating up.

If a glacial smile on my face will help to cool things down by the odd millionth of a degree, I might just be persuaded to hear the second and mercifully last episode of Perseus Pin Investigates (Radio 4, Saturdays, repeating - but you would be mad to listen - Wednesdays: producer, Lissa Evans). Stephen Sheridan's broad spoof on the world and ways of Hercule Poirot is one of those confections that makes you wonder what they do in script units.

David Wade

TOMORROW

Rum Rossini: John Higgins at La Scala

Out of the underground

Stinkfoot, "a comic opera", opens in London tomorrow. Bryan Appleyard talks to its creator Vivian Stanshall, former Bonzo Dog



NICK ROBERTS

In 1984, Searchlight, a submarine chaser built for the Irish Navy in 1914, sank at its moorings in Runnymede. Its owner was in hospital and a neighbour had forgotten to switch on the bilge pump. On board Searchlight was a large collection of records, tapes, paintings, photographs and books, all methodically cross-referenced. But for the "nightie" he was wearing in hospital, a pair of sandals and a staff, they were the total worldly goods of Vivian Stanshall, the dangerous wizard who had once led the Bonzo Dog Doo Dah Band.

"It was Biblical stuff," he recalls. "I had lost everything."

Four years later he is precariously reassembled, with a flat in Muswell Hill and a comic opera about to open at the Bloomsbury Theatre. But, even now, nobody should expect anything recognizable as a career. At 45, the Dadaist soul of Vivian Stanshall is still intact.

"I'm just interested in too many things for my own good," he says, perched on the windowsill of a church hall in Bloomsbury, where his new show is being rehearsed. "If you want to sell yourself, you should just stick to one last."

The words emerge wistfully from what looks like a pastiche of the conventionally Bohemian artist. Having removed his velvet beret, his head is revealed as balding with long ginger hair; he has a beard and waxed moustache with two Dali-esque curves pointing heavenward. He wears purple suede shoes, transparent purple socks and a large, floppy cravat. He is pale and his face is continuously crossed by fleeting anxieties.

"You'll have to prod me," he says on arrival. "I'm partly brain-dead. I've been up since six o'clock this morning, worrying. I have to get the programme notes done. There's no

The much pillaged Vivian Stanshall: "In the deepest hell there was always a little singing voice inside me"

money and I've got skips full of rags for costumes. Then I had a row about feminism with my wife and how all my female characters are stereotypical and somewhat nugatory. So I had a crisis and had to review the whole show . . ."

He was born in east London, the son of a man who had trained himself as an accountant by roller skating to night school. "My father was determined I should be a barrister, so I had to speak very posh. By the time I was 21 or 22, it had started to feel natural."

By then he was at the Central School of Art. This was the early Sixties, and most of the more

dissident students were forming rock bands. He joined in, playing almost any instrument and singing in a strange, light, haunting tone. By 1965, the Bonzos - Stanshall uses the Dog Band, a less friendly abbreviation - were fully fledged.

Until their demise they were, on both sides of the Atlantic, an integral part of what was called "the underground".

"We only had one thing that went into the charts. That was 'Urban Spaceman', which I abhorred then and do now. It was poppy and facile. But mainly it's because it had a line in it - 'I got speed' - which everyone took to refer to amphetamines.

It didn't really. It was just that fashionable drug culture. The herd instinct depresses me."

Nevertheless, Stanshall loved the Bonzos. "It was wonderful. We did some really dangerous performances, ones that stretched people. We went on unprepared yet ready to jam." It lasted until 1970, when, in the middle of an American tour, Stanshall declared the Dog Band dead: "The kind of life we had reviled was rapidly becoming our own: limousine, hotel, stage; limousine, hotel, airport."

For him, as for so many other refugees from the Sixties, the Seventies were to prove traumatic. After

collapsing from overwork, Stanshall was prescribed tranquilizers and became addicted. He lived in north London in a house called Chuevara and then moved on to the Searchlight. Work included the radio series, *Sir Henry at Rawlinson End*, which also became a film and book; but, with drink and pills, he was clearly in some kind of decline, a process that reached a symbolic climax with the sinking of the Searchlight.

"It's funny, though; there was always a little singing voice inside me. *De profundis*, in the deepest hell, there was this little voice making jokes. I used to tell myself: 'This is crazy, you nearly died three hours ago . . .'"

The present show, *Stinkfoot*, was born in the wake of the sinking. In 1985 his wife ran a company which needed a Christmas show in Bristol. Stanshall decided to write it himself - "I'd always wanted to do a contemporary Gilbert and Sullivan, really."

The theme arose directly from his own experience of total loss. In the struggle to recreate himself, he became aware of the mystique attached to every craft with which he had been involved. This mystique, he decided, was basically a defensive bluff: a secret can always be communicated. Everybody, including artists, should be prepared to explain and give away everything they have. It is a dream descended from the old Sixties visions of integration and peace.

The Bonzos, of course, were heavily plagiarized by more cynical commercial bands - "I have been much pillaged," he says - and Stanshall himself is a seldom-acknowledged godfather to a generation of comics that includes the *Monty Python* team. As if in respectful homage to his legacies to both rock and comedy, *Stinkfoot* is being sponsored by Pete Townshend and Stephen Fry.

He is, it hardly needs saying, a very odd man. An almost painful precariously suffices his face, his words and, of course, his life story. His language betrays a kind of florid literacy, which he appears consciously to keep in check. Behind the eyes, there is a shadow of disappointment; it springs, perhaps, from the sense that the Sixties dream of prelapsarian, anarchic simplicity failed. Stanshall has lived both the dream and its failure.

Stinkfoot by Vivian Stanshall at the Bloomsbury Theatre from December 12 to December 31.

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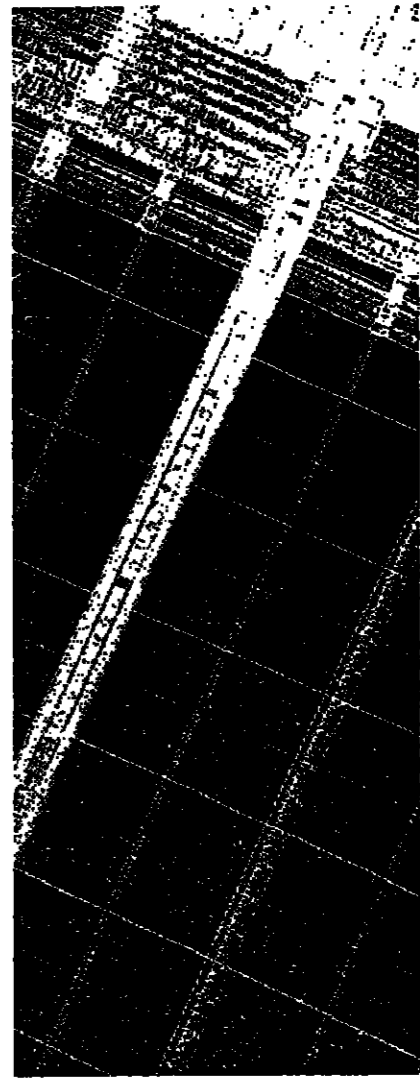
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INFORMATION SERVICE

Carols for Christmas From Aberdeen to Worcester, church and cathedral choirs will be in full voice over the next two weeks. Anne Whitehouse presents a selection of carols and Christmas music

LONDON

ALL SOUL'S, LANGHAM PLACE, W1 (Anglican): Dec 24, 11.30pm: Christmas Eve Communion, Dec 25, 10.30pm: Morning service, Dec 31, 11.15pm: Watchnight service.

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL, CATHEDRAL STREET, SE1: Dec 16, 3pm: Christmas Eve service, Dec 18, 3pm: Cathedral carol service, Dec 24, 11.30pm: Midnight Eucharist, Dec 25, 11am: Eucharist.



CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: Dec 12, 7pm: Carol concert, Dec 24, 3pm: Carol service, Dec 25, 10am 11am and 3.15pm: Services with carols, Dec 28, 3pm: Christmas service.

LIVERPOOL METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL (Catholic): Dec 15, 5pm: Festival carol service followed by music and mulled wine, Dec 24, 11.25pm: Christmas music and Midnight Mass.

ARMAGH, ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL (Roman Catholic): Dec 18, 7.00pm: A Christmas reflection, Dec 24, 12 midnight: Pontifical Mass, Dec 25, 9am 10.30am and 12 noon: Midday Mass.

BELFAST, ST PETER'S CATHEDRAL (Roman Catholic): Dec 24, 9pm: Christmas vigil, Dec 25, 9am, 10am, 11.30am and 7pm: Mass.

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL, St Chad's (Catholic): Dec 18, 7.00pm: Carol service, Dec 24, 11.30pm: Carols before Midnight Mass, Dec 25, 10.30am: Mass.

OUT OF TOWN

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, LUDGATE HILL, EC4 (Anglican): Dec 21, 6.30pm: Dec 24, 4pm: Carol services, 11.30pm: Midnight Mass, Dec 25, 10.30am: Sung Masses, 3.15pm: Evensong.

BERKELEY, ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL: Dec 24, 11pm: Festival of nine lessons, Dec 25, 11am: Holy Communion.

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL (Anglican): Dec 14, 15, 7.30pm: Christmas carols, Dec 20, 7.30pm: Carols by candlelight, Dec 24, 3.30pm: Carol service.

GLoucester Cathedral: Dec 25, 3pm: Carols for all, Jan 15, 3pm: Epiphany Carol Service.

HULL CITY HALL: Dec 22, 7.30pm: Carol service by Hull Choral Union.

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: Dec 22, 6.30pm: Carol service, Dec 23, 6.30pm: Carol service, Dec 24, 11.30pm: Midnight Mass, Dec 25, 10.30am: Mass, Sung Eucharist.

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Review section on Saturday by a preview of the week ahead. Items should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN

THEATRE LONDON

AN ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE: Transfer from Young Vic of Arthur Miller's anguishing adaptation. Playhouse Theatre, Northumberland Ave, W1 (01-838 4401). Tube: Embankment.

FILMS

Also on national release 2 Advance booking possible AU REVOIR, LES ENFANTS (PG): Louis Malle's moving, semi-autobiographical, set in a provincial boarding school in the last months of the Second World War.

DANCE

GRAND PAS CLASSIQUES: Sylvie Guillem, from Paris, dances this showpiece and Apollo with the Royal Ballet. The Spirit of Fugue and A Month in the Country complete the bill.

GALLERIES

Plotting the Course: Works by 27 young black artists. Woverhampton Art Gallery, Lichfield St (0852-512323), Mon-Sat 10-6pm, free, until Jan 31.

ROCK

Teenybop sensation at the start of a lengthy seasonal tour. Saxon, Finsbury Square, Glasgow (041 248 5000), 7pm, £5-8.

CONCERTS

Carter At 80: See caption. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-828 8808), 7pm, £3-10.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1743. Includes grid and clues for ACROSS, DOWN, and WORD-WATCHING.

WINNING MOVE. Chess Correspondent. The above position is taken from the game between Nimovitch (White) and Hakansson (Black) played in a match in 1922.

OPENS TONIGHT. MRS KLEIN by NICHOLAS WRIGHT. Apollo Theatre 01-437 2663.

THEATRE LONDON. A collection of theatre listings for various venues including Apollo, Lyric, and others.

CINEMAS. Listings for various cinema venues including Camden Plaza, Chelsea Grand, and others.

ENTERTAINMENTS. A large section containing listings for concerts, theatres, opera and ballet, and art galleries.

THEATRE LONDON. Continued listings for various theatre venues.

OPENS TONIGHT. Listings for plays opening on Monday.

THEATRE LONDON. Continued listings for various theatre venues.

CINEMAS. Continued listings for various cinema venues.

OPPOSITE BY BLOOD TAX RISE. Advertisement for a tax-related service.

USM REVIEW

Select hits out as Reed gloom sends sector share prices tumbling

By Michael Clark



Robert Klapp: no downturn at Select

A dispute about prospects for the employment industry between two leading agencies was simmering last week.

On Friday Mr Robert Klapp, chairman and chief executive of Select Appointments, the USM-quoted employment agency, reacted angrily to suggestions by Mr Alec Reed, chairman of Reed Executive, that the industry was experiencing a downturn which was bound to take its toll of profits.

Mr Reed's comments coincided with the group's interim figures on Tuesday showing a 20 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £6 million.

He said Reed had experienced a downturn in both vacancies and job applications since July, which would affect its results for the second half, with profits for the full year finishing only marginally ahead of the previous figure of £10.5 million.

The gloomy news from Reed caught the market on the hop. The Reed share price was marked sharply lower, finishing the week 40p down at 105p. It also succeeded in dragging the shares of other employment agencies with it, including Hestray, 29p lower at 265p, and Select Appointments 18p at 176p.

Mr Klapp at Select is incensed by the way the market has treated his company's shares.

The employment agency sector has been under a cloud for some time in the City.

It is regarded as an accurate indicator of the economy, quickly mirroring any downturn or acceleration in the economy. In times of recession temporary staff are quickly shed to reduce costs and the opposite is the case during periods of economic growth. But confidence has been badly affected since the stock market crash and further evidence of a slowdown has been provided by the recent dismissals within the Square Mile at securities houses such as Morgan Grenfell.

Mr Klapp says: "We have noted this week's reported comments of Mr Reed. However, we are not experiencing any

downturn in vacancies and job applications. The number of permanent vacancies registered in our UK offices in September, October and November increased by an average of 41.7 per cent on the same period last year, with permanent applicants up by 8.3 per cent."

He complains that it is unfair of the market to compare Select directly with Reed. Most of Reed's profits come from Britain but Select has been expanding overseas. This summer, it paid £16.5 million for Morgan & Banks, the leading Australian employment agency.

Analysts expect pre-tax profits at Select to surge from £1.9 million to £7 million, helped by a first-time contribution from Morgan & Banks, which last year made £4.06 million.

Mr Zach Miles, Select's finance director, said: "The acquisition of Morgan & Banks has opened new markets to us and we are now strongly committed to all forms of office recruitment — literally from tea ladies to managing directors, temporary or permanent."

Mr Miles also said he believed that the acquisition of CWI Inc last month has provided new openings for the group in healthy markets in the US.

He said these acquisitions would ensure geographical diversification and avoid over-reliance on the economy of one country.

H&T buys Anchor Confirming

By Our City Staff

Harvey & Thompson, the pawnbroking and financial services company, has bought Anchor Confirming & Finance, a trade finance house, for an amount related to the performance of the acquired company.

H & T is issuing convertible shares with a value calculated on a scale in relation to predetermined profit targets over four financial periods following the purchase. H & T is committed to paying

a maximum of £6 million in shares which can be converted into H & T ordinary shares or into cash.

Anchor said its expansion had been limited by lack of capital. The move will broaden the range of credit and retail banking services already offered by H & T.

Trade finance enables companies to finance imports and exports without the need for existing banking facilities.

UNLISTED SECURITIES

Table of unlisted securities with columns for Company, Price, Dividend, etc.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table of investment trusts with columns for Company, Price, Dividend, etc.

THIRD MARKET

Table of third market securities with columns for Company, Price, Dividend, etc.

GOLD

Table of gold prices and related information.

A Hero from Zero

The following extracts are taken from letters received by the Board of Lonrho following thousands of requests for 'A Hero from Zero' — the book covering the highlights of the evidence given to the Department of Trade Inspectors by the Board of Lonrho.

'...I had to write to say how shocked I was at this huge injustice.... I hope you will be at least reassured that the decision not to publish the report and not to refer it to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission is as clear a sign as any that you won the battle — making the "establishment" look like clowns in the financial world....'

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

'...under the present Government.... silence amounts to guilt....'

'...the matters raised should be immediately referred to the Monopolies Commission and I have written accordingly to my MP....'

'...a copy of the book has gone to my MP. It will be interesting to know his reaction and that of other MPs....'

'...the farce of the Harrods takeover was quite disgraceful and has completely besmirched the so called fairness of the DTI....'

'...amazed and shocked at utter incompetence and complacent attitude of the DTI....'

'...as a result of your report I hope public opinion will put pressure on the persons concerned to obtain a speedy conclusion to this affair....'

'...the way I see things Lord Young's decision, which was to be expected, is really only a temporary set-back. Yours is the final victory....'

'...A Hero from Zero uncovers the extremes to which government will go to assist its friends....'

'...to quote Mr Fallon 'go on hounding everyone in sight...demanding judicial reviews and goodness knows what else.' I think it's about time that malpractices such as the Fayed's takeover of House of Fraser and its resultant cover-up — as your report so clearly explains — were brought out into the open where they belong. There's far too much being swept under the carpet in this country....'

A FORMER EMPLOYEE, HOUSE OF FRASER

A HERO FROM ZERO The story of the takeover of Harrods by Mohammed Fayed

Over 60,000 illustrated copies of the English edition of A Hero from Zero have been distributed and it is now also available in French and Arabic.

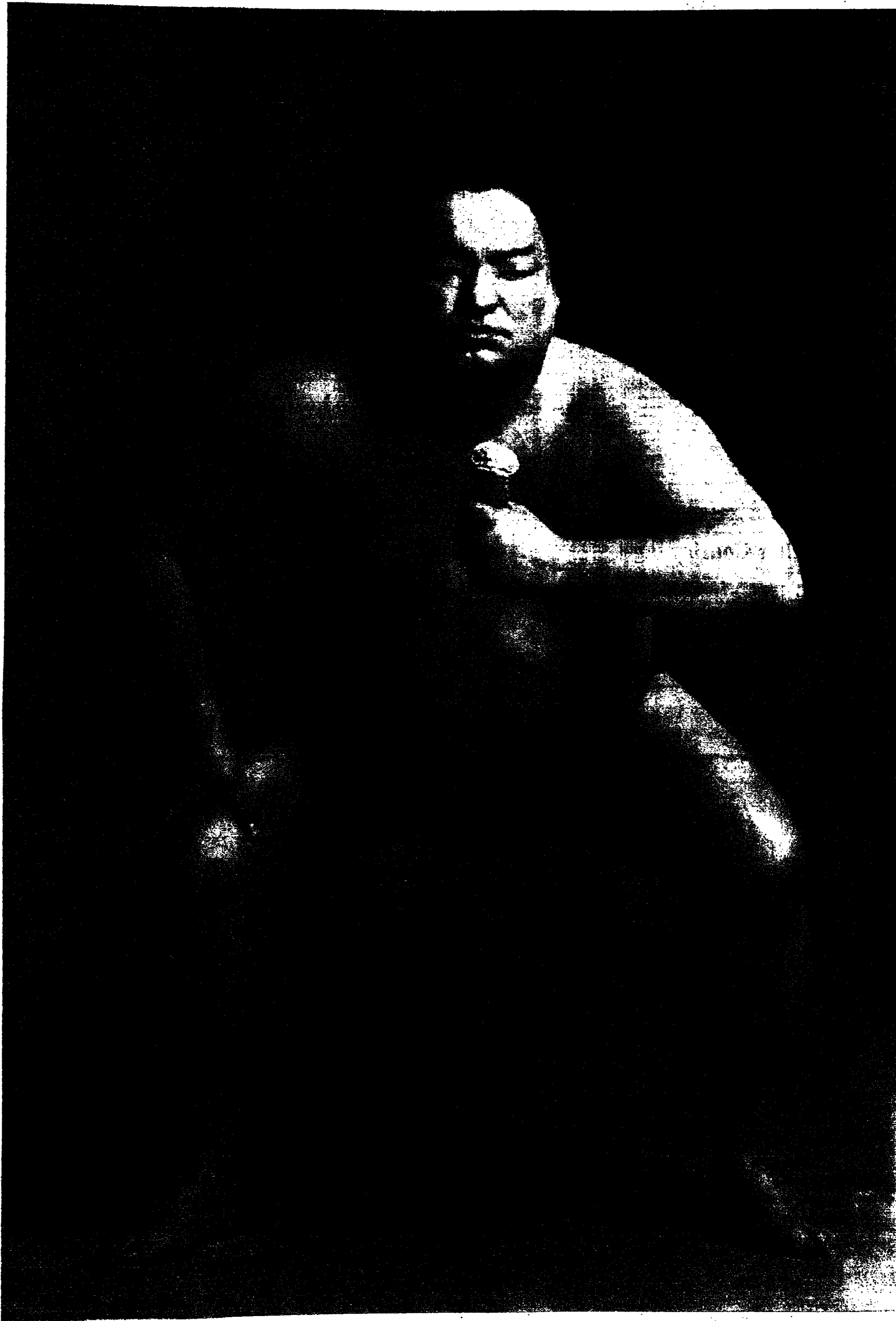
To: The Company Secretary, Lonrho Plc, Cheapside House, 138 Cheapside, London EC2V 6BL.

Please send me a free copy of A Hero from Zero

NAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE



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In Australia we've discovered mango is a hot favourite. Whereas in Taiwan, they prefer

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3000 Baskin-Robbins outlets to more than 500 million customers across 37 countries.

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ALLIED-LYONS



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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Capitalization and change on week

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted) ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings begin today. Dealings end December 23. Contango day December 28. Settlement day January 9. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices are Friday's middle prices. Change, dividend, yield and P/E ratios are calculated on middle prices. (aa) denotes Alpha Stocks.

Portfolio PLUS Accumulator. From your Portfolio card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily or accumulator dividend figures. If it matches or better this figure you have won outright or a share of the daily or accumulator prize money staked. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

Portfolio PLUS Accumulator. DAILY DIVIDEND £4,000. Claims required for 38 points. ACCUMULATOR £44,000. Claims better than 38 points. Claimants should ring 0254-53272.

Table with columns: No., Company, Group, Gain or Loss. Lists various companies like Cropper (James), Greene King, Corak, BAT (aa), Boddington, Maxwell (aa), Fisons (aa), Woodside, Whisloc, McAlpine (Alfred), Exp Comp Louisiana, Meat Trade Sup, Lawrie, Morgan Crucible, Entrepac (aa), Realy Useful, General Motor, Delta, Nido Foods (aa), Walker Greenbank, Smurfit (Jef), April (aa), Scot TV, Fenner (H), Drummond, STC (aa), YNT, Westland, Wingham Eng, Eved, Fitted Gamar, Mycolt, Telephone Remals, Bt Petroleum (aa), Rm Rack, RHM (aa), Br Aerospace (aa), M S Inl, CMI, Bus Mortgage, Plessey (aa), GEC (aa), Cealtic.

Please take into account any minus signs. Weekly Dividend. Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

Table with columns: Day, Dividend. Shows weekly dividend breakdown for Monday through Saturday.

BRITISH FUNDS

Table with columns: Stock, Price, Change, Div, Gross Yield, Net Yield. Lists various British funds like 1000 Truss, 1000 Truss 1989, 1000 Truss 1990, etc.

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

Table with columns: Stock, Price, Change, Div, Gross Yield, Net Yield. Lists various short-term investments.

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

Table with columns: Stock, Price, Change, Div, Gross Yield, Net Yield. Lists various medium-term investments.

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

Table with columns: Stock, Price, Change, Div, Gross Yield, Net Yield. Lists various long-term investments.

UNDAATED

Table with columns: Stock, Price, Change, Div, Gross Yield, Net Yield. Lists various undated investments.

INDEX-LINKED

Table with columns: Stock, Price, Change, Div, Gross Yield, Net Yield. Lists various index-linked investments.

BANKS, DISCOUNT HP

Table with columns: Stock, Price, Change, Div, Gross Yield, Net Yield. Lists various bank and discount investments.

Table with columns: Company, Price, Change, Div, Gross Yield, Net Yield. Lists companies like 2378 Int Nat Ind, 4041 Int Nat Ind, 1241 Prospec, etc.

BREWERIES

Table with columns: Company, Price, Change, Div, Gross Yield, Net Yield. Lists various brewery companies.

BUILDING, ROADS

Table with columns: Company, Price, Change, Div, Gross Yield, Net Yield. Lists various building and road companies.

FINANCE, LAND

Table with columns: Company, Price, Change, Div, Gross Yield, Net Yield. Lists various finance and land companies.

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Table with columns: Company, Price, Change, Div, Gross Yield, Net Yield. Lists various financial trusts.

FOODS

Table with columns: Company, Price, Change, Div, Gross Yield, Net Yield. Lists various food companies.

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

Table with columns: Company, Price, Change, Div, Gross Yield, Net Yield. Lists various chemical and plastic companies.

DRAPERY, STORES

Table with columns: Company, Price, Change, Div, Gross Yield, Net Yield. Lists various drapery and store companies.

HOTELS, CATERERS

Table with columns: Company, Price, Change, Div, Gross Yield, Net Yield. Lists various hotel and catering companies.

INDUSTRIALS A-D

Table with columns: Company, Price, Change, Div, Gross Yield, Net Yield. Lists various industrial companies A-D.

ELECTRICALS

Table with columns: Company, Price, Change, Div, Gross Yield, Net Yield. Lists various electrical companies.

Table with columns: Company, Price, Change, Div, Gross Yield, Net Yield. Lists companies like 942a Cambridge Elec, 1237a Clonmel, 1902a Clay Gate, etc.

E-K

Table with columns: Company, Price, Change, Div, Gross Yield, Net Yield. Lists companies E-K.

FINANCE, LAND

Table with columns: Company, Price, Change, Div, Gross Yield, Net Yield. Lists various finance and land companies.

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

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ELECTRICALS

Table with columns: Company, Price, Change, Div, Gross Yield, Net Yield. Lists various electrical companies.

Table with columns: Company, Price, Change, Div, Gross Yield, Net Yield. Lists companies like 5897 Anglo Ind, 291a Anglo Ind, 291b Anglo Ind, etc.

L-R

Table with columns: Company, Price, Change, Div, Gross Yield, Net Yield. Lists companies L-R.

FINANCE, LAND

Table with columns: Company, Price, Change, Div, Gross Yield, Net Yield. Lists various finance and land companies.

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ELECTRICALS

Table with columns: Company, Price, Change, Div, Gross Yield, Net Yield. Lists various electrical companies.

Table with columns: Company, Price, Change, Div, Gross Yield, Net Yield. Lists companies like 678a Transpacific, 678b Transpacific, 678c Transpacific, etc.

INSURANCE

Table with columns: Company, Price, Change, Div, Gross Yield, Net Yield. Lists various insurance companies.

LEISURE

Table with columns: Company, Price, Change, Div, Gross Yield, Net Yield. Lists various leisure companies.

PROPERTY

Table with columns: Company, Price, Change, Div, Gross Yield, Net Yield. Lists various property companies.

MINING

Table with columns: Company, Price, Change, Div, Gross Yield, Net Yield. Lists various mining companies.

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

Table with columns: Company, Price, Change, Div, Gross Yield, Net Yield. Lists various motor and aircraft companies.

SHIPPING

Table with columns: Company, Price, Change, Div, Gross Yield, Net Yield. Lists various shipping companies.

SHOES, LEATHER

Table with columns: Company, Price, Change, Div, Gross Yield, Net Yield. Lists various shoe and leather companies.

TEXTILES

Table with columns: Company, Price, Change, Div, Gross Yield, Net Yield. Lists various textile companies.

TOBACCOS

Table with columns: Company, Price, Change, Div, Gross Yield, Net Yield. Lists various tobacco companies.

Table with columns: Company, Price, Change, Div, Gross Yield, Net Yield. Lists companies like 271a Anglo Ind, 271b Anglo Ind, 271c Anglo Ind, etc.

OVERSEAS TRADERS

Table with columns: Company, Price, Change, Div, Gross Yield, Net Yield. Lists various overseas trader companies.

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

Table with columns: Company, Price, Change, Div, Gross Yield, Net Yield. Lists various paper, print, and advertising companies.

PROPERTY

Table with columns: Company, Price, Change, Div, Gross Yield, Net Yield. Lists various property companies.

MINING

Table with columns: Company, Price, Change, Div, Gross Yield, Net Yield. Lists various mining companies.

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Ex dividend a Ex all b Forecast dividend a Interest payment passed a Price at settlement b Dividend and yield exclude a special dividend a Pro-rata bonus a Ex of share split a Tax-free No significant data.

The challenge only unity can meet

Progress towards a single European market in 1992 gives an added incentive to telecommunications groups to streamline operations. Peter Purton reports

Telecommunications is one of the fastest-developing sectors in the world, and one that is vital if full use is to be made of the latest advances in technology. Western Europe has a great concentration of high technology, so effective telecommunications links are essential.

The challenge is to ensure that European telecommunications are sufficiently organized — and united — not only to meet competition from elsewhere, principally the United States and Japan, but to counter it.

To do this, European companies have to match the economies of scale achieved by these powerful competitors and that often means overcoming national differences.

One method is mergers, and that is already happening on an impressive scale. Another is to create continent-wide standards which will replace those set up over the years in individual countries, tailored to meet their particular national and local requirements — a difficult task. The basic requirement is for an open market embracing the whole continent.

Some progress has been made. Co-operation on telecommunications developments fits neatly into the plans for completing the European Community's internal market by 1992. It has been agreed, therefore, that the European Commission in Brussels — the executive body of the European Economic Community —



Michel Carpentier, director general of the European Commission telecommunications division

should play a key role in co-ordinating and stimulating planning on telecommunications for the next few years — although there have been some criticisms recently of the tactics it has used.

The commission's telecommunications policy was launched only in 1984; before that date it was thought the commission did not have a role to play in telecommunications. That view has since changed dramatically, and progress at commission level on telecommunications has been as impressive as in any other major policy area.

Now, barely four years after the commission took its first telecommunications initiatives, all concerned agree there is a need to coordinate network strategies, elaborate and introduce common standards, to co-operate in research and development and to

create a single telecommunications market at community level.

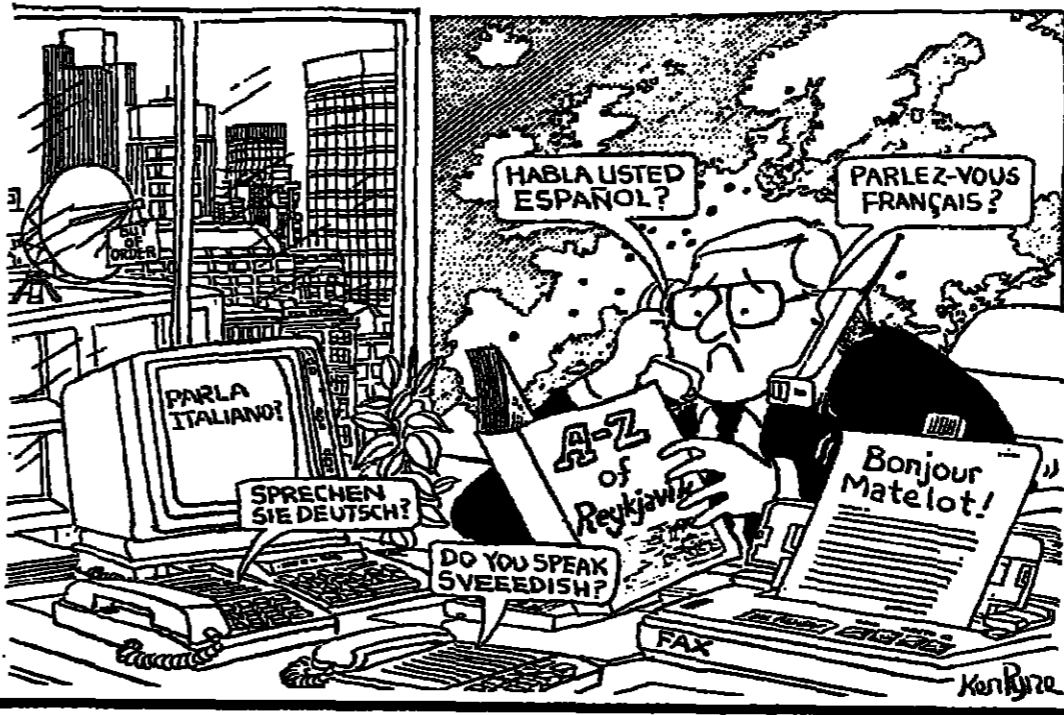
A major reason for the speed with which the major European countries have been able to arrive at a consensus on telecommunications is the strategic importance of the industry and the realization that for it, as with few other areas of commerce, the enlarged European market is of crucial importance.

Current industry estimates place the cost of developing a public telephone exchange at around \$1.5 billion. At today's prices that would mean that a switch manufacturer would have to sell more than 12.5 million lines just to recover the development costs, never mind the costs of manufacture and marketing.

Industry sources suggest that a modern telephone exchange design, to be made commercially viable, has to capture more than 15 per cent of the world market.

Any one country, even the biggest in Europe, represents only 6 per cent of the world telecommunications market. Michel Carpentier, director general of the commission's directorate on telecommunications and information technology, says: "With 6 per cent of the world market, let's say 3,000,000 new or replacement lines a year, you cannot expect to amortize the costs of development and investment. You need economies of scale to ensure the amortization of your investment."

Take the case of digital switches. We had nine in Europe, three in the States and two in Japan. It was totally crazy. And the situation is made worse by the convergence of the information technologies: data processing, telecommunications and broadcasting. The resulting uncertainty makes it even more important



that you can be sure of a decent-sized market before making the investment.

The need to be able to guarantee a market is the reasoning behind the chain of telecommunications industry rationalizations which have taken place in the 1980s. The most significant of these to date was the amalgamation of the telecommunications interests of the American group, International Telephone & Telegraph (ITT) — which had its main market and technology base in Europe — with those of the French Compagnie Générale d'Electricité to form Alcatel NV, now the world's number two telecommunications manufacturer with a leading presence in every European country apart from the UK. Less dramatic but, taken together, equally significant

can have been a wave of smaller acquisitions and alliances.

Only the Japanese have kept out of buying into European telecommunications. They are still in the start-up phase of entering the European telecommunications market, concentrating most of their efforts on facsimile terminals and key telephone systems. Given the value both of Japanese companies and of the yen, if Japan Inc did decide to take this approach, it could make rapid headway.

Mr Carpentier says: "It would be stupid to discourage mergers with outsiders. We are certainly not against links abroad. Europe is not a fortress".

At least for the time being, he is

placing his faith in European telecommunications musclebuilding to provide a defence against foreign predators.

The creation of the internal market and all of the attendant work on standards, on public purchasing, on competition, on commercial and trade matters and so on, is done in order to strengthen the European industry. This will in turn place European companies in a better position to negotiate mergers with Japanese or American firms.

"Naturally, we are anxious that the rules of the game be fair. If it is not possible to create equal opportunities — if, for instance, European companies are barred from access to the Japanese market or from making balanced alliances with Japanese companies

— then we have to be careful. "So far not many Japanese companies are investing in Europe, especially in this field. There are more American companies doing it or European companies investing in the States. At present, I don't think the situation presents a problem".

Should the situation change, however, the commission would step in and try to protect the interests of the European telecommunications and information technology industries. "All countries, including the States, now have a trade deficit with Japan in this field," Mr Carpentier says.

Apart from reinforcing the strength of the European market and industry, Mr Carpentier cites a number of options open to the community to protect itself, including the encouragement of counter agreements with American companies and direct diplomatic and political pressure on the Japanese to ensure that they play to the rules of the international economy. "This is something which they don't do exactly as they should, and they have not done so far", he says.

"A coherent European telecommunications policy is vital for the competitiveness of European industry. And by that I do not only mean the competitiveness of the information and communications industry, but of industry as a whole."

"I am convinced that without industry sharing this general analysis, the European Commission's telecommunications policy wouldn't have come as far as we have been able to come within a relatively short span of time."

"Within 12 months we have completely changed the scenario," and we are confident that it will work."

● The writer is editor of The Communications Newsletter

Merger-mania and a little skulduggery

The joint bid launched by GEC and Siemens for Plessey last month has all the ingredients that have spiced recent manoeuvres by Europe's telecommunications giants: cross-border fraternization, large-scale merger and a good pinch of political skulduggery.

The proposed Anglo-German joint venture is the latest in a string of "mixed marriages" which European companies are entering and negotiating to stake out a future in the increasingly competitive world market-place.

Preceding it were the merger in European telecommunications by the Dutch Philips Telecommunications with AT&T back in 1984, followed by a similar link-up between Compagnie Générale d'Electricité of France and the US ITT in December 1986.

The Swedes have also been eager to participate, and last year Ericsson formed a joint venture with the French electronics and defence group, Matra. In February, the UK electronics group, STC, bought Northern Telecom's UK telecommunications and data business after the Canadian company's purchase of a 27.5 per cent stake in its own equity in 1987.

Driving this flurry of activity in Europe is the abolition of trade barriers. Suppliers are forging alliances with one another to create new marketing channels. At the same time Europeans are keen to preserve their dominance in the new open market.

However, the world telecommunications market of the 1990s will accommodate only five or six manufacturers.

Ted Richardson of the Dataquest consultancy estimates that only three or four of Europe's eight players will survive the squeeze. Logic dictates that the survivors will be those who merge, but collaboration is complicated.

Difficult decisions were neatly sidestepped by CGE when it acquired the European telecommunications operations of the American ITT group. Combined annual sales topped the \$13 billion mark, boosting the offspring, Alcatel, into No 1 position in Europe, second to AT&T in the world.

But with both companies earning their bread-and-butter telecommunications revenue from switching and transmission, the merger was initially dominated by speculation on which digital switch Alcatel would drop, CGE's System 12 or ITT's E 10. Owing to a "handy geographic knit", Alcatel deemed that neither need go.

Two years into the venture, the CGE and ITT groups continue to serve their local markets, with CGE strong in France and ITT activities

spread mainly across Germany and Belgium. A relationship which went sour because the balance of power did not satisfy the bigger partner is that forged between Philips Electronics and AT&T. The two initially agreed to merge their European public switching businesses into a joint venture.

AT&T was looking to the partnership to provide a springboard for penetration into the market, and was disappointed when its SESS exchange only succeeded in the "home" market in the Netherlands. Early in the year, Philips reduced its stake to 40 per cent, its name was erased from the venture and further cuts in its shareholding are planned. The ability to appear

as local as possible is a critical factor in the European telecommunications market, and this is where AT&T has consistently fallen down.

Last year, its two-year-long campaign to buy CGCT, the French government-owned telephone switching company with 15 per cent of the French market, was scotched when Ericsson was chosen as the neutral suitor.

Ericsson, which has traditionally had to seek revenues outside its small customer base in Sweden, and is particularly tenacious in securing new footholds, ousted both AT&T and Siemens on this occasion.

The French decided that a decision to favour either AT&T or Siemens would have caused an outcry from either party with possible repercussions.

Industry attention is currently focused on Siemens's and GEC's £1,700 million bid for Plessey.

The main target of the bid is Plessey's telecommunications operations, which comprise 40 per cent of its revenue and are neatly armlocked into a joint venture with GEC.

Should the bid succeed, GEC would take a controlling 60 per cent stake in the GEC Plessey Telecommunications joint venture, with the remainder going to Siemens.

Lord Weinstock and Karlheinz Kaske, respectively GEC's and Siemens's company chiefs, argue that their combined annual sales of £22,000 million would put the company on an equal footing with big US and Japanese electronics companies.

Moreover it would provide the financial resources to develop the successor to System X and EWSD, GPT's and Siemens's respective public switching technologies.

Helen Beckett



these services. Ed Candy, one of the engineers heading the so-called personal communicator project at Philips, says: "Ultimately people don't want to ring places but other people."

At the moment technology provides half the answer, with such services as cellular radio, radiopaging and CT2, but the proliferation of such systems also causes problems.

Philips is one of 23 organizations from 10 countries participating in the research programme, part of the European Commission's so-called Race (research on advanced communications) in Europe project. The aim is to investigate the feasibility of 100 million people across Europe using £40 pocket telephones, not just as portable telephones but as data or video terminals and as remote controls.

John Carrington, British Telecom's director of mobile communications, whose company is also collaborating in the programme, predicts that the personal communicator will be a reality within the next ten years or so.

BT recently released a photograph of what it thought a personal communicator might look like. Provisionally labelled "THE phone", it uses, instead of a keyboard, a touch-screen display and responds to voice commands.

NOT SO BIG BUT DOING GREAT.

Telefónica rates ninth in the world as regards the extension of its telephone network.

And number three in terms of submarine cables.

However, its influence goes far beyond its physical dimensions. It's the first company in the world to have set up a joint venture with the Soviet government to manufacture telecommunication systems in the USSR.

Telefónica's constant efforts in research and development have produced patented systems which are at present being used in Canada, the U.S.A., Europe, Latin America, North Africa and China. Telefónica also has subsidiary Companies in the United States and Latin America.

And its operational experience provides it with the knowhow to handle telecommunication networks abroad.

A Company like this has a price. And it's quoted on the stockmarkets of New York, Tokyo, London and Frankfurt. And on the four Spanish markets.

These are just a few of Telefónica's achievements. And we didn't need to be so big to reach them.



RIP cellular phones?

Europe is already a leader in mobile communications; analogue cellular radio mobile telephone systems are operating in most countries and a digital pan-European service is due for introduction in the early-1990s, writes Peter Purton. The first cross-border radiopaging systems are nearing introduction in France, West Germany and the UK and cordless payphone services should be available from next year.

Despite the early stage of development of many of these services, however, analysts already predict their demise. Analogue digital cellular and the CT2 cordless phone technology, on which such services as cordless payphones and PBXs are to be based, will peak in 1998.

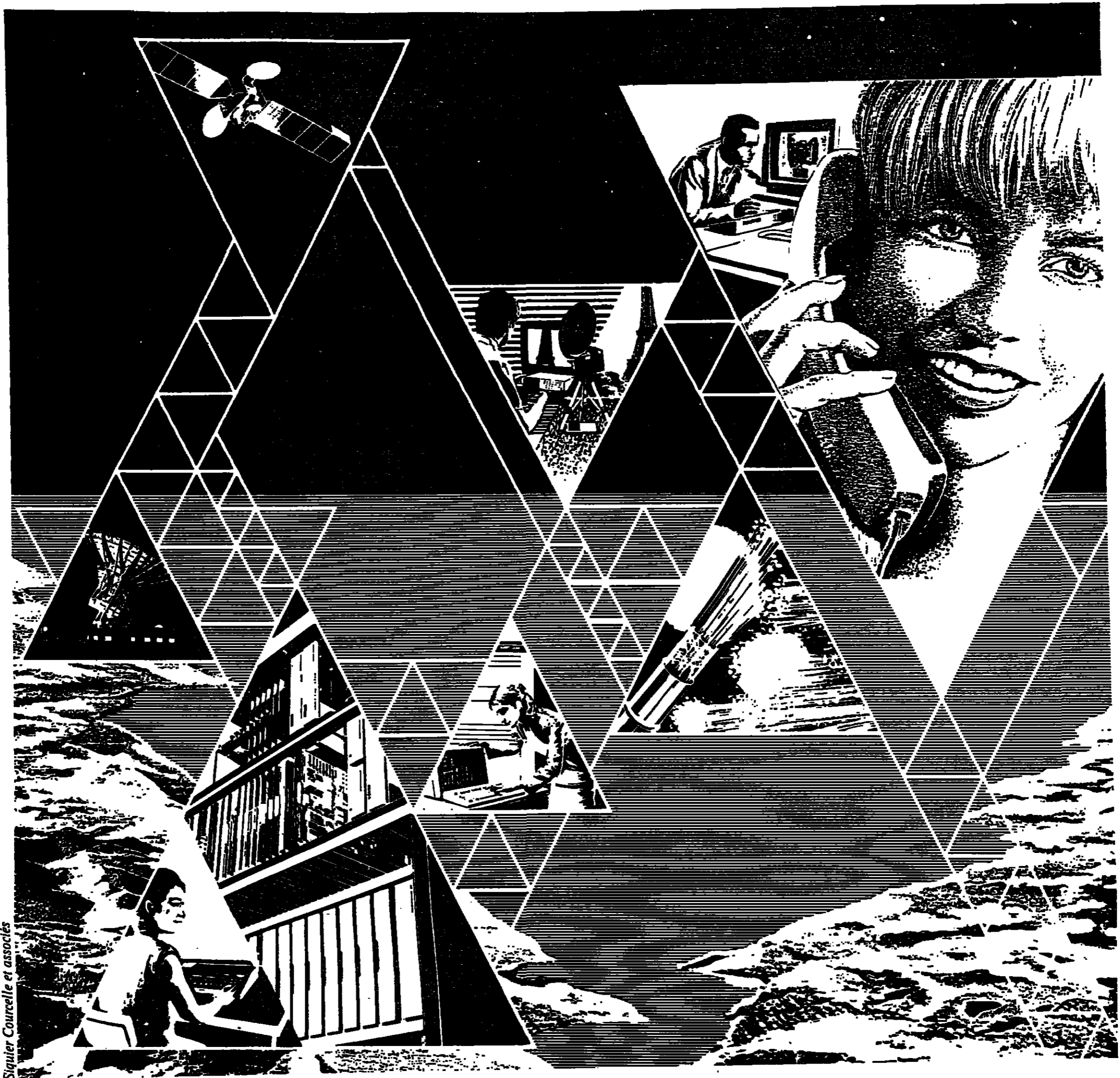
The European Commission is already sponsoring research to find a means of replacing all



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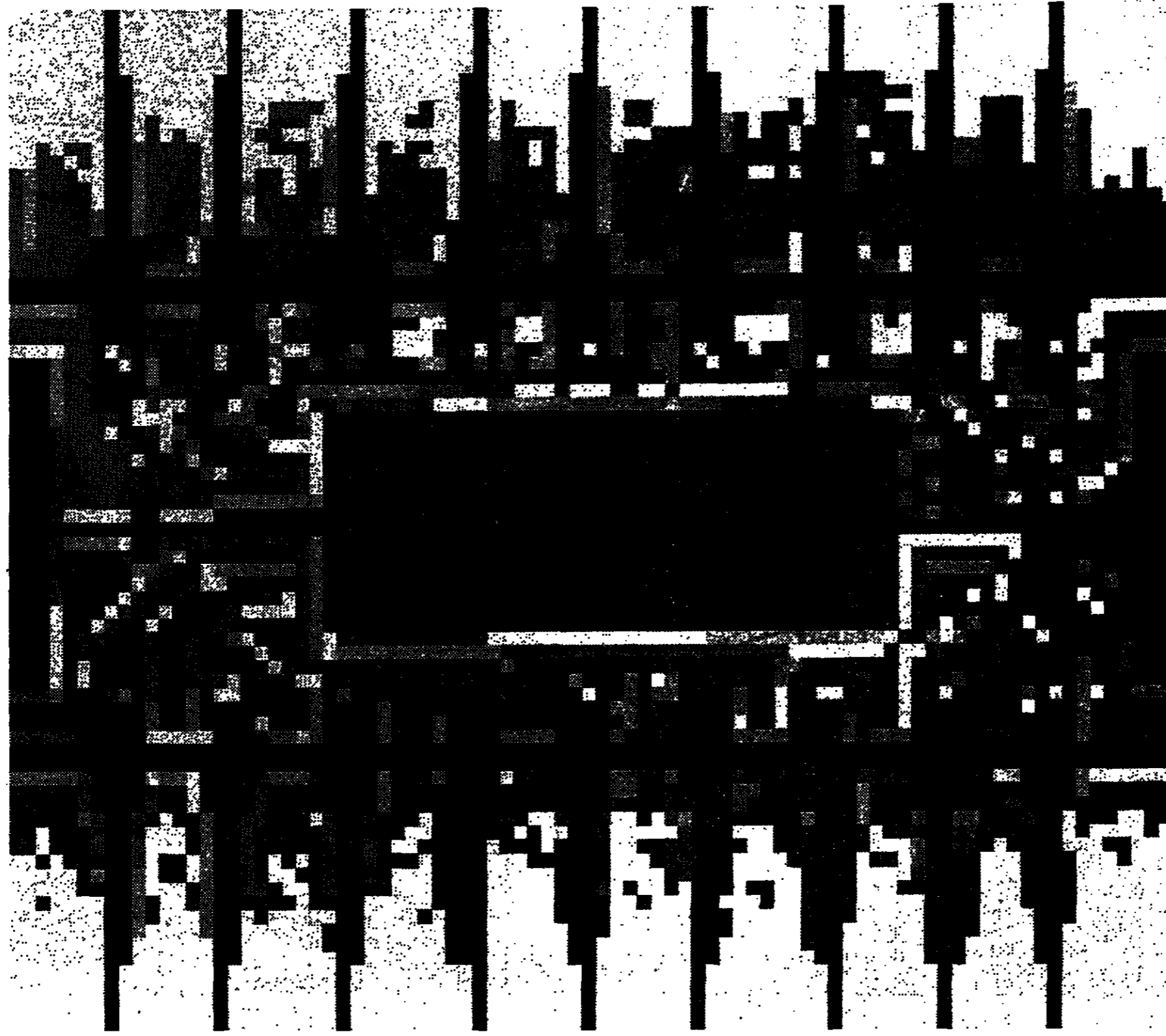
Alcatel CIT also means the innovation and reliability you can expect from an international leader in telecommunications, within a European group of world stature: Alcatel.

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A new Measure of Progress: Siemens Megatechnology

Megatechnology is today's driving force in microelectronics. It is the standard against which all future progress will be measured: whether the standard be technical innovation or price competitiveness.

Megatechnology is here! State-of-the-art production techniques allow for submicron devices to be produced with unprecedented reliability. The Megabit DRAM, for example, contains 2.2 million components on a chip only 45 mm² with capacity to store the contents of 64 typed pages – about half the text of a small novel. Such progress is a new dimension in high-speed semiconductor memory technology, but has only been achieved after considerable financial and human resource expenditure involving technical development, advanced fabrication methods and quality assurance engineering.

Siemens is an European manufacturer of 1 Megabit DRAMs, yet development is well advanced for the next generation of the memory – a 4 Megabit device involving even smaller scales of integration. This chip – with sufficient capacity to store an average-sized novel – will be in production by next year.

Progress continues, for high-capacity memories are only a means to an end: they are the "vehicles" for even more complex chip technology that will bring greater innovative trends to: telecommunications and information technology, industrial electronics, automotive electronics, entertainment electronics and many other fields where innovation linked to quality are key factors.

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Instant data moves into the big time

Fibre-optics and satellites, the old rivals, are facing a new shake-out

In their youth satellites and fibre-optics were regarded as rival technologies. As they creep towards middle age, however, the rivalry is fading away and, in Europe and North America, at least, each technology is settling into its own niche. Developments, however, threaten to revive the old fight.

Despite the glamour and hype surrounding the space industry, communications satellites are essentially no more than extra-terrestrial radio repeaters, ideally in so-called geosynchronous orbit rotating around the earth to provide 24-hours-a-day coverage of the area below. Fibre-optics, on the other hand, are essentially hair-thin strands of glass, capable of carrying huge quantities of information in the form of light signals.

Originally, both were seen as rivals to replace expensive copper cable and unreliable shortwave radio on long haul and intercontinental point-to-point links. In the event, demand for telecommunications capacity in the 1970s was found to be so high that both were needed.

Telecommunications authorities welcomed the safety net which the availability of two different technologies could provide. In practice, neither was found to be a particularly robust me-

dium. Added to what might be termed "routine" equipment failure, satellite-launching and in-situ repair have been found to be less than exact sciences, while fibre manufacture, installation and maintenance are precision activities.

While recent experience shows that the two can complement each other in most applications, overlap is greatest in their use for supporting intercontinental communications links — and there promises to be a capacity glut in this area.

In the 1990s, the first true long-distance subsea fibre optic cables will span the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. At the same time, a number of new and independent satellite operators are scheduled to begin business. Even if there is wide-spread uptake of capacity-hungry services, such as video conferencing, many analysts are predicting a shake-out both between new and existing operators and between satellite and fibre transmission.

Backers of fibre-optics could, until recently, take heart from the disastrous reliability record for satellites — both for launch and operation.

Installation of fibre-optics has increased dramatically in the past few years but, in the end, it may well turn out to be the satellite community which is better equipped to face the future — although this will be largely

thanks to applications other than traditional long-haul links.

For some time now, the role of the communications satellite has been subject to revision and re-evaluation. Although satellites still carry out simple point-to-point telecommunications tasks, providing back-up for cable in the developed countries as well as basic services in isolated regions, there has been a distinct shift of interest towards multi-point services.

This trend, mainly in Europe, Japan and North America, has been reflected in a host of new acronyms and buzzwords. These include direct broadcast satellite (DBS), television, community antenna television (CATV), satellite master antenna television (SMATV), micro-terrestrial or very small aperture (VSAT) business-to-business services, one-way data broadcasting to multiple destinations, and mobile communications.

Behind each of them lies a potentially lucrative new business area. Pioneering the last, which some would say holds out the most potential, has been the International Maritime Satellite (INMARSAT) organization, with its headquarters in London, which next year celebrates its tenth anniversary.

Originally set up to provide reliable communication facilities for ships at sea,

INMARSAT has subsequently used its satellites to investigate a variety of new services. Following trials in a number of European countries, it believes that there will be large-scale future demand for land mobile satellite services, using vehicle antennae a mere 20cm high and electronics which fit into a box only slightly bigger than a car radio.

INMARSAT is also looking at continent-wide, or even global, radio-paging networks using satellites and in-flight telephones for airline passenger communications in conjunction with a number of European and international operators.

In contrast to satellites, the repertoire of fibre-optics has not really progressed beyond point-to-point applications, although the new generation of transatlantic systems will have limited multi-point facilities via a type of seabed switchboard, allowing branches from a single cable to be brought ashore at a number of destinations.

On land, fibre-optics has generally been used on main trunk and junction routes in national telecommunications networks, for other heavy traffic applications such as mass data transfer, or where its high degree of communications security is useful.

So far, the technology has made little impact in what is potentially its biggest market: the local network linking individual homes and premises. A big reason for this is the gap that exists in Europe in the commercial chain between the suppliers of fibre-optic equipment and the would-be end-users of the type of service which fibre could furnish.

This link has to be mediated by service providers who do not necessarily find it in their interest to pursue potentially expensive and commercially uncertain installation programmes. And when these mediators are interested, they can find themselves unable to pursue the interest because of regulations.

If fibre-optics is to have anything more than a specialist future, its friends and backers will have to find a solution to this problem, and fast, if they are not to be faced with the job of having to oust the satellite from a niche it has claimed as its own.

John Williamson
The author is the international editor of Telephony



Fibre-optic cable rolls out lines of communication for business people across Europe

Ken Young analyses the fast-growing electronic information network

European companies are increasingly turning to electronic databases for a wide range of information, from finance to market reports and abstracting services. Information is power, as the saying goes, but it is of little use if it cannot be stored, transmitted and received by an audience willing to pay for it.

Most databases, or real time information systems (continuous information services), are available by computer link as on-line services. A simple phone call connects your computer to the electronically stored database.

The latest trend is to make the link even easier by transmitting information by TV broadcast or satellite to dish receivers.

According to EPS, a specialist consultancy in information markets, the UK information service market is worth £546.5 million and has more than 800 services on offer.

This puts Britain in a market-leading position with around 52 per cent of the European market, valued at nearly £1.1 billion. This is due mainly, says EPS, to its lead in supplying equity trading and foreign exchange services.

UK service providers are beginning to market their services in Europe, but penetration is relatively low.

EPS says: "Due to international telephone and data connections most services are potentially available throughout Europe, but in practice most services are only targeting one or two countries."

Language barriers are also a problem. "Some databases offer multi-lingual services, but language will continue to be a barrier until English becomes the standard business language."

UK database service is worth £546m

It is easier for users to find what they want from one location — a kind of electronic shopping mall. But no other European country has gone as far as France, which offers a nationwide service as a backbone for a host of information providers.

With more than four million users, the French Minitel viewdata system is the world's most successful and most talked-about on-line system. It spans the nation, and offers more than 7,000 separate information services at the press of a button.

But services such as Minitel still rely on the telephone network for connecting users. Service providers are increasingly looking to broadcast techniques to break down the dependency and increase distribution.

In Britain, spare frequency is available from the BBC and the IBA for the transmission of data throughout the TV network — effectively 98 per cent of the British Isles. One of the key users in the UK is the Stock Exchange, which uses the system to transmit its

Market Eye service, comprising data on UK equities, gilt-edged securities and London-traded international stocks.

Data broadcasting expands its horizons further when satellite transmission is used. Industry pundits claim that with an increase in the number of satellites targeting Europe, and an easing of the legislation concerning their use, we are likely to see a steady growth in pan-European data-broadcast services.

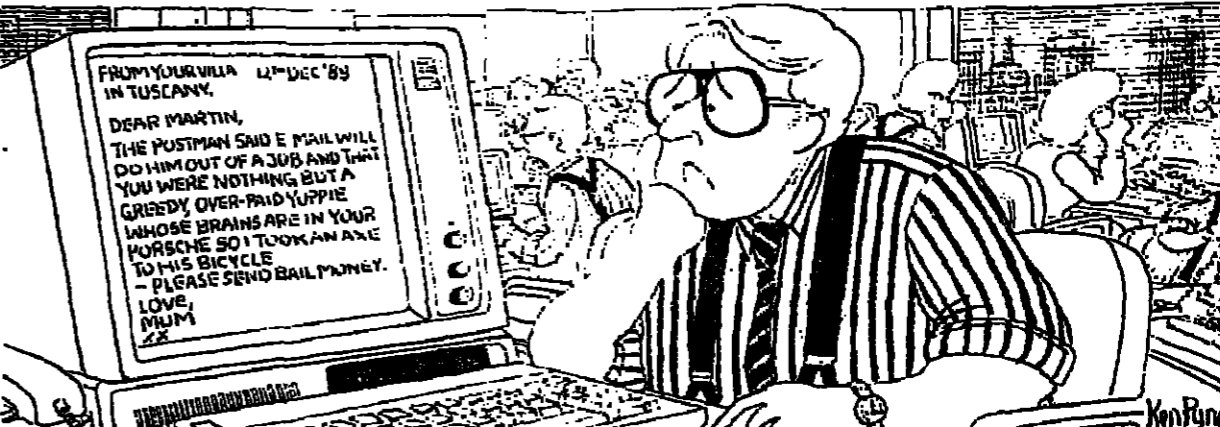
One UK company, ICV, claims to be the first European concern to launch a commercially available service. To get around UK legislation, ICV is sending its financial data service, Comstock, to Paris, from where it will be linked up to a satellite and beamed across Europe.

The arrangement is part of a deal struck with a subsidiary of the Paris Bourse, SDIB (Société de Diffusion, d'Information Boursière). The SDIB has been transmitting Topval, the Bourse market data service, via satellite for two years.

Paron Knadjian, director of



London Stock Exchange dealers rely on instant information



Electronic mail service poised to beat off the fax challenge

So far, at least, electronic mail, by which messages are sent electronically, has not been the great success observers in its early days had predicted. But its supporters are now hoping to see a recovery as the European Community moves towards completion of its internal market in 1992, writes Peter Parson.

The problem until now has been that its brilliance has been eclipsed by a rival — and many would say far less potent — technology, the facsimile terminal.

"Fax is the yardstick against which E-mail's success is being measured," notes Alan Pyne, a consultant specializing in electronic messaging at BIS Mackintosh, the market analysis company. "This must be the fourth year in which the size of the fax market has doubled. E-mail is simply not showing the same kind of growth."

Chris Newman, sales and marketing manager of the UK public electronic mail service, One-to-One, admits that facsimile "has been a spoiler". He does not, however, think that it provides the full explanation.

"Computers put people off — needing to know about software and modems made things even worse," Mr Newman says. "With facsimile

people don't need to know either about computing or about entering commands."

He also thinks that people view electronic mail in a completely different light from facsimile. "Many people bought electronic mail in the days when it seemed it was going to be the 'in' thing. Then came facsimile. I think nowadays a lot of our users use it as a back-up system."

This theory was borne out during the UK postal strike earlier this year. Both Tele-

Quikcomm electronic messaging service. One such application which his largely multinational users have taken to is financial consolidation.

The real breakthrough for electronic mail, however, is likely to come from the development of so-called open systems. This means that any of the users of the wide range of public and private electronic mail services in use today will be able to send and receive messages from any of the others, rather than be

confined to their relatively small electronic islands.

The centre of attention in open systems for electronic mail is the efforts by the United Nations-sponsored International Telecommunications Union to create a so-called message handling system standard. These go under the general description of the X.400 recommendations.

"X.400 is to E-mail as Group 3 is to fax," notes Mr Pyne of BIS Mackintosh, referring to the electronic standard which finally made facsimile attractive to ordinary business users. "But

Mr Pyne predicts further mergers, rationalisations and maybe a few failures. Mr Newman of One-to-One agrees: "As 1992 comes along one has to be of some size in order to compete. Even now I think it is fair to say that by 1992 we will need to be four to five times the size to survive"

By 1992 we will need to be many times the present size to survive

com Gold and One-to-One reported marked increases in usage of their systems.

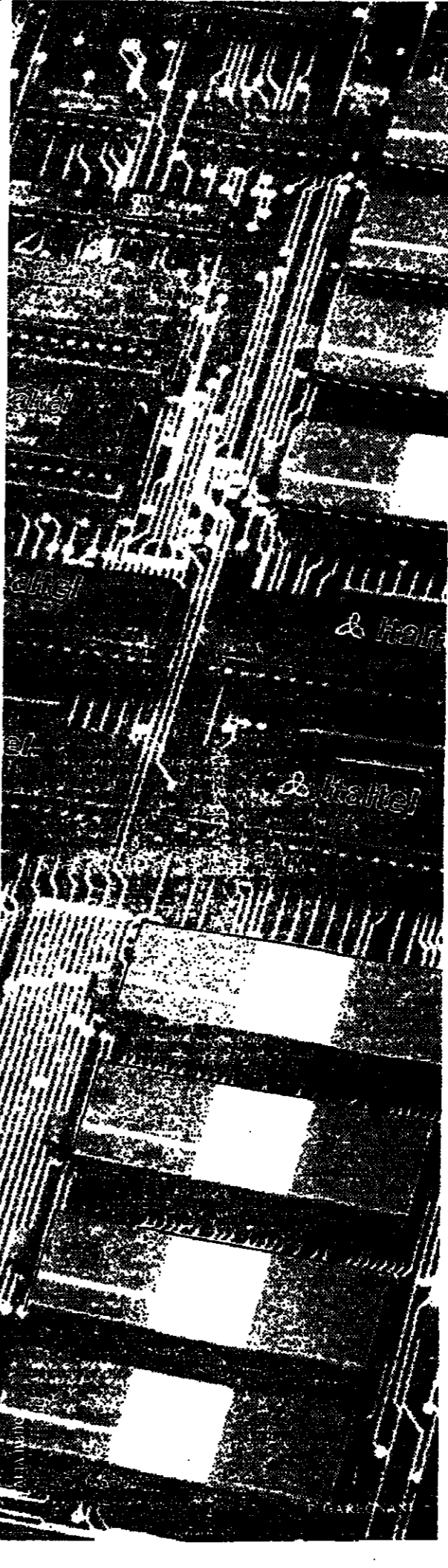
In truth, providers of electronic messaging services are now hoping for a new wave of enthusiasm amongst users for their services. Mr Newman believes that this may be on its way, thanks partly to the development towards a single European market.

Other electronic mail professionals believe that we may already be seeing the first signs of electronic mail's second wind. "The trend is away from E-mail newsgroups to applications," notes Geoff Wigan, manager of GE Information Services

there is a high degree of confusion and uncertainty (about X.400) — not just among customers but also amongst service providers", he adds.

"The US experience has shown that well established players are reluctant to open up their user-bases to newcomers. There is a general fear of losing out rather than realising that everyone can gain". In the end, he believes that everyone will come around to the benefits of an open standard, but that this may take a little time yet.

THERE IS
A
MAJOR PLAYER
FOR THE FUTURE
OF
TELECOMMUNICATIONS,
AND
IT'S MADE
IN ITALY:
ITALTEL



Italtel is not only the leader in the Italian telecommunications but a worldwide player as well. Italtel has earned this recognition because of its advanced technology, superb quality and customer satisfaction. Today, Italtel's accomplishments around the world include the Linea UT switching system, transmission and office communications systems, technological and commercial agreements and participation in the most important international research programs.

CRICKET: PAKISTAN'S MEN LEAVE THEMSELVES WITH A LOT TO DO WHILE AUSTRALIA'S WOMEN PROVE TO BE LESS THAN INVINCIBLE

England women open way to final Australians wrest upper hand from ill-prepared Imran

From Carol Salmon Melbourne

England all but assured themselves of a place in the final of the Shell Bicentennial Women's World Cup when they upset Australia...

The World Series Cup began here over the weekend with two unfortunately one-sided games...

From John Woodcock, Adelaide

the other this autumn when the scores finished level but Australia lost more wickets. Now, though, Pakistan promised anything much only for a few overs when Salim Malik and Javed were playing...

When Imran won the toss again yesterday he changed his tactics, choosing to bat rather than field, and it did him no good. The last two one-day matches between the same sides, both in Lahore, had been as close as could be.

WEEKEND SCOREBOARDS

Table with columns for ENGLAND, WEST INDIES, AUSTRALIA, PAKISTAN, and WORLD SERIES CUP TABLE. Lists players and their scores.



Australians celebrate Marsh runs out Saleem Yousuf, of Pakistan, at Adelaide yesterday

Srikanth joins elite club

Visakhapatnam (Reuters) - Kris Srikanth baffled New Zealand with the ball and then, more predictably, thrashed the bowling for 70 runs to lead India to a comfortable victory in the opening encounter of the one-day five-match series on Saturday.

SNOOKER

Davis is first £100,000 winner

By Steve Acteson

Steve Davis was crowned 'player of the year' for the second season running last night albeit in his absence. John Parrott however, had found Davis's presence all too solid on Saturday night as the world champion overthrew the Everton World Matchplay and snooker's first six-figure first prize, £100,000.

The tone had been set for Davis's seventh win in as many meetings with Parrott in the opening frame when, after breaking off, his run with the cue produced a century. Parrott, at least, had the satisfaction of a clearance of 135 in frame nine, the first of the evening, to deny Willie Thorne the high break prize of £10,000 by a single point, and increase his personal winnings to £50,000 in all.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Table listing various sports fixtures including Football, Basketball, and other events with dates and times.

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Grimley JREve CHARTERED SURVEYORS. 3 Secretarial Vacancies have arisen at our busy expanding company of Chartered Surveyors.

PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BAR. Owing to an internal promotion, a vacancy has arisen for the position of Personal Assistant to the Chairman of the Bar.

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Maine-Tucker LANGUAGE ESSENTIAL £11,500 + Brilliant Package. Our Client, a very famous progressive international company is looking for someone exceptional.

DO YOU LIKE TRAVEL? The young, dynamic Chief Executive of one of UK's top 'household name' tour operators is looking for a PA (see page 25) to assist him in the running of a very successful holiday company, based in S.E. London.

MAYFAIR Experienced Receptionist/Telephone. City Finance company. Needed for small, busy office. Must be well presented and have a good telephone manner.

EXECUTIVE CREME. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, WC2 £14,000. Unusual Opportunity.

PRO NED recruits non-executive directors and chairmen for a wide range of companies and advises on general Board issues. We need a Secretary/PA aged 25+ to work closely with a director.

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ADMINISTRATOR - Catalogue for Ladies' Accessories. 1000's of items for sale. Some very special. Call 01-262-1234.

GERMAN - £12,500 - Do you live in Italy or Spain? Great opportunity for German/Italian/PA to be bilingual. Firm. Call 01-262-1234.

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT c.£14,000. We are a small successful consultancy specialising in recruitment for blue chip companies throughout London.

TEMP INTO 1989! Excellent rates. A personal professional service and ability to handle people at all levels and matters of confidential nature, plus a great sense of humour, loads of common sense and a willingness to 'get involved' in the business.

PA IN PERSONNEL DESIGN GROUP £28,000 per hour. Described as appropriate for individuals concerned with the recruitment process. Contact Helen with conditions.

FOOTBALL

Triumph of mind over muscle



West Ham United 0 Sheffield Wednesday 0

West Ham United were 10 minutes from scoring but a last-minute equaliser by Sheffield Wednesday...

The best that can be said of Sheffield Wednesday is that they have the virtue of sheepdog persistence...

When they clear the ball into touch, sometimes they try to send it into the next county...

Where West Ham failed, and continues to fail, is that they do not have the attacking players...

Fortunately for West Ham, Sieraldi did not have one of his better days...

For 10 minutes or so at the start West Ham had Wednesday in a grip...

Another West Ham weakness is in the air, where Wednesday won almost everything...

EQUESTRIANISM

Whitaker is far too fast

Brussels - John Whitaker, on Next Milton, won the Volvo World Cup qualifier in the Palais des Expositions...

Four with double clears went into the barrage with Whitaker opening proceedings...

VOLVO WORLD CUP QUALIFIER: Next Milton (GB) v Next Milton (GB)...

GOLF: WHERE AN AMERICAN SEES A WORK OF ART, AN ENGLISHMAN SEES ANOTHER POT OF PAINT

Crenshaw keeps his nerve to lead US out of the wilderness

From Mitchell Platt, Golf Correspondent, Melbourne since Hale Irwin in 1979. Not since 1983 have the US triumphed...

On a day of swirling winds and intermittent rain here a resolute nerve was required. "It was a real test of concentration..."

"I saw it as a straight putt of four feet. I hit the ball nicely but I can't say how happy I was to see it disappear..."

SCORES FROM MELBOURNE

Table of golf scores from Melbourne including US United States Golf Club, Japan, Australia, etc.

SKIING

Bell brothers have contrasting luck

The magnificent eleventh place achieved by Graham Bell of Britain, in the second World Cup men's downhill here on Saturday...

Tomba back on form

Madonna di Campiglio - Until yesterday, nothing much had gone right for Alberto Tomba...

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Table of American Football scores for various leagues like NFL, NFL-A, etc.



The iron that turned to gold: Crenshaw hitting the jackpot

HOCKEY

Hounslow dispute the saving stroke for Old Loughtonians

Old Loughtonians held Hounslow to an exciting draw in the lead in the fifth minute with their unbeaten record...

Teddington exceed all expectations

Teddington, exceeding all expectations, topped the quarter-finals of the Nationwide Anglia Cup at Feltham...

Two difficult games ahead for Havant

Havant went into the winter recess with a six-point lead in the Poundstretcher National League...

FOR THE RECORD

Summary table of various sports records including football, basketball, tennis, etc.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kerry is man of the match on first appearance

By Keith Macklin son of Bradford Northern, international Phil Ford, scored a try...

Early in the second half Northern suffered a blow when Brennan Hill was sent off...

Widnes hit back to reach trophy final

By Keith Macklin Just as everyone at Wigan was preparing for an orgy of defeat...

The Saints defied pre-match predictions of a comfortable Widnes victory...

REAL TENNIS

Davies proves mettle with tough victory

Bordeaux - Wayne Davies, the world champion, used superior athleticism and precision under pressure...

YACHTING

Dickson does the double over Davis

Fremantle - In an all-New Zealand final, Chris Dickson's crew defeated that of Rod Davis...

RALLY CROSS

RUFGY UNION

Blackburne RFC: First match, Rhoswyl vs. Glynneath...

TENNIS

MELBOURNE: Federation Cup: Flavia Pennetta defeated Silvia Farago...

SQUASH RACKETS

TABLE TENNIS

COVENTRY: Ladies Junior National Championships: Boyce v Munn...

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Red Wings 4, Toronto Maple Leafs 2...

Le Tissier named

Matthew Le Tissier, the Southampton forward, aged 20, has been named Barclays Young Player of the Month...

END COLUMN

The Red Rose loses its bloom

By Peter Ball

Lancashire and Yorkshire might not be very good at cricket any longer...

There are some regional differences. In Yorkshire they have a taste for high drama...

In Lancashire they prefer low comedy in the best music hall tradition of Al Read...

Committee was behind change

With the elected enlightened committee giving official support for the first time to a proposal to admit women to membership...

"Every time we see a reference to this in the press another own goal is scored by Lancashire County Cricket Club...

"In many areas the rules under which we operate would be regarded as crude discrimination..."

He had misjudged his audience, white, male and mainly late middle-aged, with a handful of women employees...

Subscriptions rise also rejected

It was not the only issue on which the committee suffered a reverse, members rejecting a proposal to increase subscriptions...

The committee did, however, make some progress. Cyril Washbrook was elected as president...



No goal: Clarke, of Everton, heads past Hooper but he pushes Stannton in the process. Ablett (No. 2) looks on

Clarke conspires again to deny Liverpool victory

By Stuart Jones Football Correspondent

Liverpool 1 Everton 1

Wayne Clarke, who ended Liverpool's triumphant opening sequence last season...

Yet had Southall not made several extraordinary saves, Liverpool would still have risen ominously into third place...

Liverpool were initially appreciably more the measured and constructive in their work...

Liverpool gave themselves as much time in midfield as well. There was no need for them to be hurried...

Everton, in contrast, appeared to be forever toiling twice as hard as their rivals for less than half the reward...

Cardiff end Enfield's run

By Paul Newman

Enfield 1 Cardiff City 4

Enfield's hopes of extending their FA Cup giant-killing run ended in disappointment at Southbury Road yesterday...

Without ever needing to move into top gear, Cardiff exposed a wide gap between the bottom of the conference and the middle of the third division...

colleague might be in the vicinity when it landed. They were equally limited in defence...

Harvey rues Cottee's miss

Colin Harvey appreciated the value of his goalkeeper's contribution. "Neville Southall made a couple of great saves..."

The champions never matched the move again, although they glimpsed at least four other opportunities...

Before the interval, Beardsley accelerated into a central path, which was guarded only by Ratcliffe and Watson...

Everton, in contrast, appeared to be forever toiling twice as hard as their rivals for less than half the reward...

on the right and Barnes on the left. He delayed momentarily before choosing to free Aldridge...

In the second half, Beardsley repeated the run and the idea. Aldridge, hesitating fractionally before starting his sprint...

They might even have collected nothing for their superiority which was less marked after the interval...

Clark, the scorer of the ensuing penalty, appeared to have added another after the hour. But in climbing at the far post to nod in Wilson's cross...

"I want Herol Graham," Benn said after disposing of Noel in one of the easiest of his 20 inside-the-distance victories...

Second, Gerry Armstrong, of Eastbourne, who would have umpired the US final, had retained the scoresheet...

Leach and Pugh are both about £96,500 richer after their week in London. They shared £39,000 in prize money...

Benn goes after bout with Graham

By Srikumar Sen Boxing Correspondent

After having given "Mexican road sweepers" a dusting in his early contests, and cleaned up the Commonwealth by knocking out David Noel...

"I want Herol Graham," Benn said after disposing of Noel in one of the easiest of his 20 inside-the-distance victories...

Leach and Pugh are both about £96,500 richer after their week in London. They shared £39,000 in prize money...

FA ponders the words of Robson

Time is on the side of Bryan Robson, the England captain, as the Football Association ponders whether to charge him with bringing the game into disrepute...

It presents the FA with a dilemma. But Ted Croker, its outgoing secretary, hinted that it would turn a blind eye and operate an unwritten 'statute of limitations' to let Robson off...

"We certainly have no intention of going back through past publications to see if certain comments could bring the game into disrepute..."

Scottish Cup finals look set to be played to a finish, with extra time and penalty kicks if necessary, from 1990...

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Challengers agree on design

By Barry Pickthall

The venue for the next America's Cup has yet to be resolved by the courts, but there does at least seem to be general accord over the type of yacht in which the contestants will compete...

The challengers agreed in principle on a design concept last month, and last week, at a final series of meetings in San Diego...

Measuring up to 75ft overall, 10ft more than the 12-metre yachts they will replace...

Though the 12-metres that have graced the America's Cup scene since 1958, the new boats displace a third less weight and carry a third more sail area...

Though only 10ft longer than the 12-metres that have graced the America's Cup scene since 1958, the new boats displace a third less weight and carry a third more sail area...

Britain's European open weight judo champion, Elvis Gordon, will bank a cheque for £3,000 after collecting the bronze medal in the Masters Prodigy Lifters in Paris...

Leach and Pugh profit but miss champagne

By Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent

Rick Leach and Jim Pugh, who were little more than names on a draw sheet in 1987, had an extraordinary first year...

The final was preceded by a polished performance from the Royal Artillery band, whose programme included a Melbourne - Czechoslovakia defeated the Soviet Union 2-1 to win Federation Cup...

Leach and Pugh missed their flight from Heathrow and telephoned the Albert Hall to find out if the champagne party was over...

World Championship Tennis, which promotes the tournament, has booked the Albert Hall for two more years...

It was not until the second set that Casal and Sanchez produced returns sharp enough to test the Californians' quick reactions at the net...

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Webb's layoff The Welsh wing, Glen Webb, who aggravated a knee injury during Wales's defeat against Romania...

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Advertisement for 'His granny is all he has left' featuring a photo of an elderly woman and a call to action to help the aged.